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Asiana hikes daily daytime flights

These additional flights will bring a much-needed boost to many businesses throughout the industry, not to mention the spillover in increased economic benefits.

— Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Jerry Tan

Asiana Airlines is once again increasing its service from South Korea to Saipan, this time with new daytime flights featuring larger aircraft.

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DELEGATE FORUM AGNES E. DONATO

Delegate candidate Gregorio Sablan speaks to the audience during the Delegate Forum held Wednesday night at the Multi-Purpose Center. Joining Sablan at the table are, from left, delegate candidates Felipe Atalig, Pete A. Tenorio, David M. Cing, Chong M. Won, Juan T. Lizama, and John DLR. Gonzales. The forum was organized by the Office of Youth Affairs, the Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College, and the CNMI Youth Congress.

Korean won weakens, hits NMI tourism

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The international fallout of America's financial crisis has hit the CNMI's tourism market through a drastic decline in the value of the Korean won, a trend that has diminished the buying

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Saipan is backdrop for Russian supermodel tilt

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Nine Russian beauties, flashing toothpaste ad-perfect smiles, flirted with the camera during an unscheduled mini-pictorial at the stage of the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

It was a rehearsal for the Russian dress

See SAIPAN on Page 4

The nine finalists in the first ever Russian Supermodel of the Year pageant pose for the camera during a break in one of their rehearsals for the event that will be staged tomorrow at the Saipan World Resort Ballroom. NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Fitial hints of conspiracy in pat-downs

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Fitial

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday suggested a "conspiracy" behind the anti-drug operation aboard a Shanghai Airlines' charter flight Saturday morning.

Fitial, in a press conference, questioned the timing of the operation, linking it to the ongoing talks

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you agree with the $250 million price tag set by lawmakers in the sale of CUC's power plants?

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10 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Bear Market

Even an orchestrated round of rate cuts by the world's central banks was not enough to stem the bleeding on Wall Street.

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Political Paris

Watch out world: Paris Hilton is continuing her bid for the White House.

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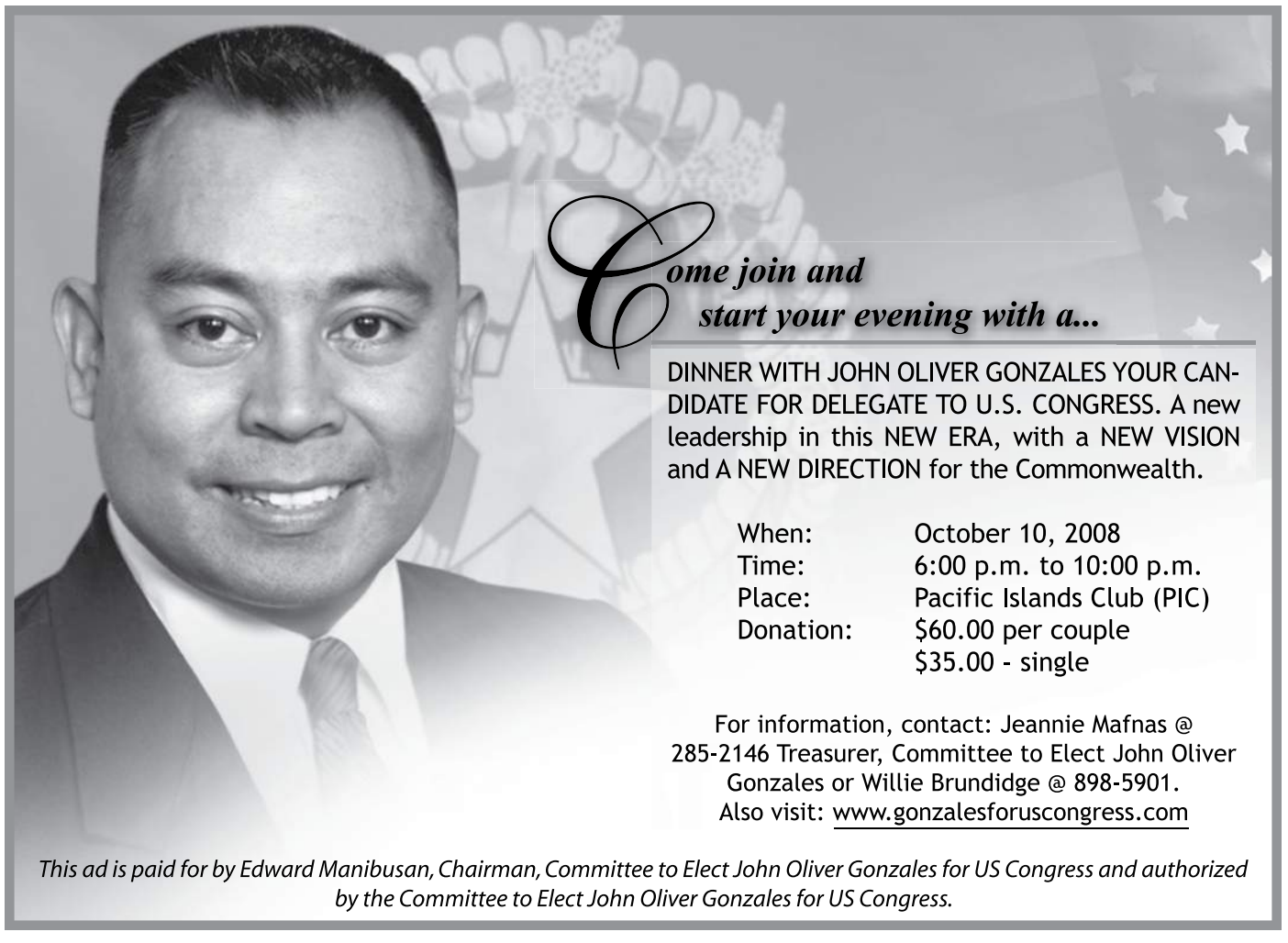
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Local

Miura extradition set today

Finance to bill LAPD for Miura's detention expenses

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Los Angeles Police Department's detectives were expected to escort Kazuyoshi Miura to California by early morning today Friday, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

As this developed, the CNMI government, through the Department of Finance, is going to bill the California government for the expenses incurred by the Department of Corrections during Miura's more than seven months' detention.

Although the LAPD detectives and the CNMI government refused to release information as to the exact day when they will bring the 61-year-old Miura to California, many sources disclosed that the first leg of the journey—from Saipan to Guam—will be at 4:40am today.

The connecting Continental flight will be from Guam at 6:25am to Honolulu and then to L.A.

Miura

Many Japanese journalists who have been camping out at the Saipan airport since Sept. 29 when Miura withdrew his petition for habeas corpus in federal court will be joining the same flight. Other members of the Japanese media will accompany Miura only from Saipan to Guam.

Yesterday, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Mangloña granted the Attorney General's Office motion to release Miura's passport for his extradition.

Following the order, a Superior Court staff handed Miura's passport to Attorney General's Investigation Unit's investigator Erwin Flores yesterday at 10:45am.

A source disclosed that DOC has been computing all its expenses with respect to Miura since his detention last Feb. 22. The expenses report will then be forwarded to Finance.

A DOC official told *Saipan Tribune* that Finance will submit the billings to LAPD.

The official, who requested anonymity, said it is very difficult to figure out how much the total expenses will add up to because prices on the island, including electricity, have considerably increased since Feb. 22.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Finance will be presenting DOC's billings to LAPD.

"I think it's consistent with the normal practice that other states are also doing with similar situations. It's customary. It's normal," Reyes said.

He said he doesn't know the amount yet as Finance is still gathering all the information.

Four LAPD detectives led by Rick Jackson arrived on Saipan Tuesday night to bring Miura to California where he is facing charges of conspiracy to commit murder over the fatal shooting of his wife in 1981.

It was local authorities who arrested Miura at the Saipan airport last Feb. 22 for the murder case. The businessman had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the murder of his wife, Kazumi. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high courts 10 years ago.

LAPD said Miura hatched the plot to kill Kazumi to collect on her life insurance policies.

Miura an 'economic asset'—Fitial

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday called murder suspect Kazuyoshi Miura an "economic asset," pointing to the business and the publicity that the Commonwealth generated from the international media coverage of his seven-month extradition case on Saipan.

"Economically, he is an asset. The CNMI benefited from his incarceration here. The media coverage helped the economy. We were hoping he would stay longer," Fitial told a room full of Japanese and local media yesterday.

However, the governor was quick to add that he would not hope for other high-profile fugitives to come to Saipan.

"We don't want to market the CNMI as a destination for fugitives. We want Japanese tourists to come here, not Japanese fugitives," Fitial said.

Miura was arrested at the airport on Saipan last Feb. 22 over the killing of his wife in L.A. in 1981. Since then he has fought his extradition to California, where he has been cleared of murder but is still facing a charge for conspiracy to commit murder.

After losing the extradition case in the CNMI Superior and Supreme courts, he brought the legal battle to the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. On Sept. 29, 2008, he gave up on the extradition case and vowed to continue his fight in California. The Los Angeles Police Department was expected to escort him to California early this morning.

Miura's extradition case drew wide coverage by Japanese media, generating publicity for Saipan in its largest tourism market, Japan. Moreover, reporters, photographers, and cameramen covering the case spent weeks at a time on island, creating business for the local tourism industry, including the hotels, taxicabs, and car rental companies.

Baka to be named as Gregory's replacement

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Deputy attorney general Gregory Baka will soon be appointed to officially serve as the Commonwealth's attorney general.

Baka has held the position in an acting capacity since former attorney general Matthew Gregory resigned in late September. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday said he wants Baka to have the position permanently.

Asked what he thinks of his pending nomination, Baka said, "It really depends upon the Senate. I will do what the Senate wants."

The Senate must approve any nomination for attorney general.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes and Sen. Paterno Hocog, who is chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, could not be reached for comment at press time.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona, a member of the EAGI Committee, declined to comment on Baka's unofficial appointment. He said the committee will definitely conduct a public hearing before taking action on any AG nomination.

Baka has worked at the CNMI Office of the Attorney General for almost three years. He joined the office in March 2006 as an assistant attorney general, and was appointed deputy attorney general in July 2006.

Before that, Baka ran his own law firm for two years—from 2004 to 2006. He worked as assistant U.S. attorney for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands from September 1997 to February 2004.

Baka attended the U.S. Naval Academy from 1975 to 1979. He obtained his law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1989.

MVA: Visitor arrivals up 5 percent in Sept.

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The CNMI's tourism industry saw slight gains in September with a 5-percent jump in visitor arrivals and a major influx in Japanese travelers linked to the expansion of airline service from Tokyo to Saipan, the Marianas Visitors Authority said Thursday in a newly released report.

MVA's September tourism statistics reveal that 27,650 travelers arrived in the CNMI last month, a 5-percent rise over the 26,252 that entered in September 2007. The Japanese tourism boost, MVA said, was tied to the beginning of added airline flights to the CNMI from Tokyo's Narita Airport.

However, this increase comes in spite of a severe drop in the number of Korean visitors coming to Saipan connected to recent declines in the value of the Korean won when compared to the U.S. dollar—part of the toll America's financial crisis has taken internationally—and increased airline ticket prices.

Korean visitor arrivals fell 22 percent in September, MVA says, down from 8,605 in the same month last year to 6,697 now. MVA managing director Perry Tenorio in a statement said turmoil in the global economy could have a serious impact on tourism.

"We are encouraged by the increase in our September arrivals from various source markets," Tenorio said, adding that the "threat of a global recession, coupled with higher air fares and the increase in fuel surcharges is of great concern to the MVA. Although it is still too early to predict the impact of these factors on the travel industry, these forces are beyond our control and could severely impact outbound travel demand from our primary and emerging source markets to the CNMI."

Tenorio

Meanwhile, September marks the close of MVA's 2008 fiscal year. Over the year, tourist arrivals increased by 1,398 visitors to 396,487. Japanese tourism fell during the year by 6 percent while Korean tourism saw a 19-percent increase. Russian tourism, a small but profitable demographic for the local travel market, climbed by 103 percent.

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Hopwood students prep for monument-al debate

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Eighth-graders at Hopwood Junior High School Thursday geared up for a debate next week on a controversial White House proposal to establish a national marine monument in the ocean waters encompassing three of the CNMI's northern islands.

In a classroom exercise designed to build critical thinking skills, the students took up the opposing sides of the monument issue. Environmentalists have long said the proposal will safeguard a unique and fragile marine ecosystem at a time when the world's oceans are under increasing threat and bolster the local economy. Opponents of the plan, however, have said the monument would constitute an intrusion on the CNMI's autonomy and that local controls are enough to protect the islands.

Before the debate, students heard from John Joyner, director of the CNMI's Coastal Resources Management Office, who told them why he opposes the monument.

"It takes away local control," he said, later likening the monument to the theft of a student's backpack. "It takes away local control and it doesn't provide for how there will be more protection than we have at present."

Yet the students had their own ideas about the monument and as they sharpened their arguments for the debate next week, the classroom appeared as divided as the local community when it comes to the issue.

Monument proponent Kimberly Ada said the plan will preserve the environment and account for the interests of the CNMI's people.

"Local people will be protected," she said. "It's not going to take anything away from them. We just want to protect the ocean."

On the potential economic benefits of the proposal, Christiane Baquiano presented figures shown in a recent study on it authored by a University of Guam economist that suggested the monument could draw up to $10 million a year to the CNMI and create hundreds of new jobs. But Allene Evallar countered that there are no guarantees the CNMI will see that boost and pointed to the recently established marine monument in Hawaii to back her case.

"There's no assurance that we'll get millions of dollars from it and new jobs," she said. "That's the same thing that they said would happen in Hawaii and what happened? Nothing."

Later, over-fishing and the need to protect the environment were the reasons Charlene Baquiano urged her class to support the proposal.

"The Marianas are unique," she said, adding that the region's oceans are "fragile because they're over-fished and over-fishing kills the environment."

Teacher Kimberly Vaillancourt said the debate stems from the class' discussions on the monument earlier this year. The debate is slated for Thursday.

"I brought in a real-life situation for the students to talk about," she said. "Out of that came a real interest to debate."

Man allegedly hits girlfriend with a bench, bites another

A man allegedly beat up his girlfriend and hit her with a wooden bench then bit another woman who pacified him at a residence in Chalan Kanoa Wednesday midnight.

Isman Bokuku, 23, was detained for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The girlfriend suffered a one-inch laceration on the head. She was treated at the Commonwealth Health Center.

The other victim had a bite mark on the left forearm. She refused to be treated.

During yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona imposed a $6,000 cash bail for Bokuku's temporary release. Preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 16 at 9am.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that, according to the girlfriend, she was inside her house when Bokuku arrived, confronted her for lying, then allegedly punched her thrice in the face and slapped her. Bokuku then picked up a wooden bench and allegedly hit her in the back of the head.

The second victim said she saw her family members trying to stop Bokuku. When she hugged the defendant to calm him down, he allegedly bit her forearm. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FITIAL

From Page 1

between the U.S. and CNMI governments on whether a visa waiver program should be established for Chinese and Russian tourists under the soon-to-be-federalized immigration system.

According to the governor, the federal government may have designed the operation to discredit the CNMI government's claim of ability to monitor the entry of Chinese and Russian tourists.

"This is a conspiracy. We're in the middle of discussing and negotiating allowing Chinese and Russian tourists to come into the CNMI under a visa waiver [program], then all of a sudden this occurred," said Fitial.

For its part, the Drug Enforcement Agency said the governor's claim was "unfortunate" and "absolutely off the mark."

Antonio Marquez, the agent in charge of the DEA's Guam Resident Office, said that Saipan is being inundated by high-purity crystal methamphetamine from Asia, and the agency's sole intent in conducting the operation Saturday was to stop narcotics from coming into the island.

"We are here with a mission to combat drugs," said Marquez. "We [DEA] work everywhere. We even work with foreign countries. We don't go into anything to try to cause problem for local folks."

Fitial said he supports the DEA's efforts to eradicate drugs in the Commonwealth, but is upset by the treatment that Chinese tourists received during Saturday's incident. He said federal agents should not have singled out the Chinese tourists and subjected them to intensive body searches without explaining what was going on.

"I was very disappointed when I learned about the incident. It's like you coming into my bedroom without permission. I completely abhor what happened," he said.

The governor also said he is "seriously considering" whether to pull out the local law enforcement officers from a joint anti-drug task force with the DEA.

In a related news, the tour company that organized the charter flight from Shanghai expressed concern about the negative publicity Saipan is receiving in China because of the incident.

Henry Pun, tour manager at Century Tours, said three major newspapers based in Shanghai and Beijing have reported about the episode. Some of the tourists have complained to the Chinese government's foreign affairs office in Shanghai.

"The public is aware of what happened," Pun said. "We worry that the Chinese government might stop this flight—at least until they receive some kind of assurance from the governor," Pun said.

KOREAN

From Page 1

power Korean tourists have when vacationing in the Commonwealth.

There is some optimism, however, that the weakened won will benefit the CNMI as Korean travelers choose to spend their vacations in destinations that are low-cost and closer to home.

The value of Korea's currency, the won, on Thursday fell to 1,425 won per U.S. dollar, its lowest level in a decade. It rebounded slightly to 1,417 after intervention by the Bank of Korea. Wall Street analysts have linked the won's decline to the ongoing financial crisis in the American mainland, coupled with turmoil in the Asian economy.

Koreans are a crucial demographic for Saipan's tourism industry, accounting for roughly a quarter of the travelers that have come to the CNMI in the last year.

The effects of the won's decline on tourism are already evident at some hotels in the CNMI, with some proprietors saying revenues are showing a slight drop as Korean visitors have tightened their purse strings.

At the Pacific Island's Club, general manager Kieran Daly said the waning won has prompted a 2- to 3-percent decrease in revenues for the resort.

However, the Korean tourism market remains strong in the CNMI, he said, because the islands are a short-term and comparatively low-cost destination for Korean travelers. Destinations further from Korea, such as Hawaii, are more likely to see a significant tourism impact, he said.

"There has been a slight side-effect," said Daly, adding that the "overall spend" by Korean travelers in the CNMI is down. "But it's a market that can rebound very quickly as well. It can come back very strongly and it has done that historically."

That optimism is reflected in the recent decision by Asiana Airlines to increase its number of direct flights to Saipan beginning Oct. 3, with Kumho Asiana, the airline's parent company, promising to develop its golf market. ***See related story.***

The won's decline appears to have taken a heavier toll at other resorts on Saipan. One hotel proprietor, speaking anonymously, said it has forced some tour operators to raise prices on the package deals sold to Korean travelers and slowed the tourism market.

"It's a very obvious fact that when the won gains strength, tourism here benefits," he said. "When the won gets weak, it really makes everything a lot more expensive."

Meanwhile, the values of Japanese yen and Chinese yuan have remained relatively stable in recent months. But with the won reaching decade-long lows, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio said in an interview Thursday that the local tourism sector should take notice.

"This concerns us greatly," Tenorio said. "Obviously, the buying power for Korean tourists has weakened."

ASIANA

From Page 1

Effective Oct. 26, three new flights will bring in tourists from Incheon, South Korea, to Saipan on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Added to the existing four-time weekly service, this now means that the CNMI will enjoy "3D" (Daily, Daytime, Direct) service from Korea's largest airport.

The new route will be served by a Boeing 767, configured with 15 business class seats and 235 economy seats. This is an upgrade from the current Airbus 321, which holds 177 passengers. The overall increase in seat capacity is 54,000 annually. With an anticipated average load factor of 80 percent, this means that the CNMI may receive as much as 43,000 additional visitors each year.

The Korean market has expanded rapidly with the market commitment of Asiana Airlines—from 98,403 Korean tourists in fiscal year 2007 to 110,012 in 2008—or a 12 percent increase. With the additional flights Asiana is announcing, the projected arrivals for FY 2009 could increase by as much as 39 percent, to 153,012 Korean tourists.

According to Kwang Joong Kim, general manager for the Regional Sales Office on Saipan, the new service is planned as a year-round schedule, but could fluctuate with actual demand.

In addition to this announcement, on Dec. 19, Asiana plans to open a new direct route between Saipan and Osaka, Japan.

"We are very proud that Asiana will be flying 21 times a week to the CNMI by the end of this year," said Kim. "Obviously, we are planning these additions because of Kumho Asiana's investment in Laolao Bay Golf Resort. We plan to sell golf memberships in Korea and Japan in the future. At the same time, we are pleased that our airline and our sister company at Laolao are part of the local community and are able to help the local economy."

Speaking on behalf of the Marianas Visitors Authority, board chair Jerry Tan praised Asiana for the airline's partnership and commitment to growing tourism in the CNMI.

"We are so appreciative of all that Asiana Airlines and its owning company, Kumho Asiana, is doing to help develop our local tourism industry," said Tan. "These additional flights will bring a much-needed boost to many businesses throughout the industry, not to mention the spillover in increased economic benefits to boost our local economy."

"We look forward to promoting these new flights with Asiana and wish them much success in their expanded service," he added. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN

From Page 1

presentation and the gangly beauties, ranging from 16 to 25 years old, didn't let their flimsy grasp of the English language get in the way of their chance to convey their excitement at being here on Saipan.

"We like Saipan very much," they chorused when asked to comment about their first visit to the CNMI.

The nine girls are the finalists of the first ever Russian Supermodel of the Year contest, which will be staged at the Saipan World Resort tomorrow night.

One of the contestants, Tamara Zhukova, said Saipan is the nicest island she has ever visited.

The 18-year-old, who stood about six feet in her stockinged feet, said in broken English that she's very excited to be in the competition, saying "I'm ready." She refused, however, to talk about her chances of winning the title.

Another contestant, Olga Chichulina, expressed her joy at being one of the nine finalists, who were chosen from among 103 women who originally joined the pageant back home.

The other contestants were Lilia Dubenskaya, Alina Sobina, Anna Gladchenko, Anna Pikulenko, Natalia Akimova, Lyubov Meteleva and Daria Berdnik.

Saipan World Resort is the major sponsor of the event here, while a construction company from Russia is the main sponsor back home.

Pageant promoter Svetlana Oksjuzian, who is also the general manager of the famous Red Star Model Agency, said they chose Saipan for the finals because it offers the best setting for this kind of show.

"We are here to promote the show as well as to improve relations between Russia and Saipan," Oksjuzian said through an interpreter. "We would like to invite the Saipan community to come and watch the show."

Tourists are also welcome to watch the event.

Invitations have already been sent to several government officials, including Governor Benigno R. Fitial, to attend the pageant.

Svetlana Orekmova, the general manager of PRIMOTV who is accompanying the show, said the governor has already agreed to come to the show as one of the special guests of honor.

Orekmova said that pageant promoter Oksjuzian is one of the most famous modeling promoters in Russia, having organized several international pageants there.

When asked what would be the prize for the winner, Oksjuzian said that would be one of the surprises of the show, which will start at 7pm at the hotel's Royal Taga Ballroom.

Aside from the Russian dress presentation, there will also be a swimwear competition and European-style wedding dress as well as a question-and-answer portion.

Oksjuzian said each contestant would also be doing a look-alike of Western movie greats, vintage or modern, such as Marilyn Monroe.

Ogumoro returns to post as DPS range master

Ambrosio T. Ogumoro has been reinstated to his post as CNMI Range Master for the Department of Public Safety. He re-assumed his position on Monday, Oct. 6.

As Range Master, Ogumoro is in charge of the armory and firearms record and the firearms training for all law enforcement agencies in the CNMI.

"I am grateful and honored for my re-instatement as the CNMI range master," Ogumoro said in a statement.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja overturned in September Ogumoro's unlawful possession of ammunition conviction. Naraja also ordered that Ogumoro's conviction record be erased. Ogumoro claimed that the cases filed against him were the result of a vendetta carried out by the previous DPS leadership.

Since coming on board Monday, Ogumoro said he started off with the inventory of all DPS-issued firearms to include civilians to ensure accountability.

As for the DPS-issued firearms that were issued out to other agency as a temporary loan, Ogumoro said he issued a recall order for these firearms to be returned to DPS Armory effective yesterday, Oct. 10, 2008.

"The physical inventory will allow accurate accountability to DPS, and will allow me to assess the memorandum of agreement with these agencies," he said.

Ogumoro said he has already inspected the firearm training facility in Marpi and has determined that some improvements are needed to bring the safety operation up to standards.

"For this reason, I have temporarily closed the target training range. Also, I've discovered that there was no inspection conducted to the two existing shooting gallery here on Saipan. I will be working closely with firearms instructor Dave Hosono to correct these deficiencies," he said.

His priority at the moment is to meet with the CNMI Training Coordinator to consolidate all firearm training and extend the same training opportunity to Tinian and Rota. He believes this will save the government thousands of dollars.

"At a later date, I will schedule to met with the directors of the islands to assist them in the construction of their firearms training facility," he added.

"I would like to extend a sincere appreciation to office Jason Tarkong and Dave Hosono and other officers for maintaining the marksmanship training for the past few years. I would like to inform DPS Police personnel that what's done is done. I would like them to know that I hope they learned something from it and need not be intimidated, and that I am here for them. I believe that a leader is hardworking, self-assured, in charge of his emotions, unselfish and never afraid to fail. Everyone is going to fail at one time or another. The key is how you come back from the failure. As a leader and the goals that I've set forth I am committed to assist our government and DPS," Ogumoro said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

EEOC files lawsuits vs factory

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed a lawsuit against Concorde Garment Manufacturing, a former manufacturer which closed its operation in 2006, alleging that the company violated federal law by discriminating against an employee based on the employee's age and Filipino national origin.

In a second lawsuit, the EEOC charged that L&T, which is owned by Tan Holdings Inc., discriminated against employees working at the garment factory complex based on their Filipino national origin and unlawfully discharged other employees due to their pregnancies. Both lawsuits were filed Sept. 26, 2008; the EEOC issued its press release yesterday.

In a statement, legal counsel Steve Pixley criticized the EEOC press release, saying it contains misleading and deceptive information. "It is unfortunate that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has elected to try its case in the court of public opinion by issuing a press release which contains sensational, misleading and deceptive information," he said.

"The defendants are proud of their long standing policy of compliance with the laws that the [EEOC] is supposed to enforce. We look forward to trying these cases in a court of law," he added.

In addition to Concorde Garment Manufacturing Corp., the defendants also include L&T Group of Companies, Tan Holdings Inc., Micro Pacific Inc., Seasonal Inc., and Tan Holdings Overseas Inc.

In the first lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Northern Mariana Islands, the EEOC alleges that a supervisor subjected an employee to age-related verbal harassment. In addition, the employee allegedly endured discriminatory comments related to her Filipino national origin. The EEOC asserts the employee was ultimately discharged based on age and national origin

The second lawsuit alleges that the company engaged in a pattern of terminating and/or refusing to renew employment contracts for a class of female employees once they became pregnant. The suit also alleges discrimination against Filipino employees in assignment of overtime by continuing to give substantial overtime to its Chinese employees while allowing its Filipino employees little to no overtime.

"Regardless of the turbulent economic climate, employers cannot engage in discriminatory conduct," said the regional attorney for the EEOC's Los Angeles District Office, Anna Park. "It is counterproductive to the economy and also violates federal law." ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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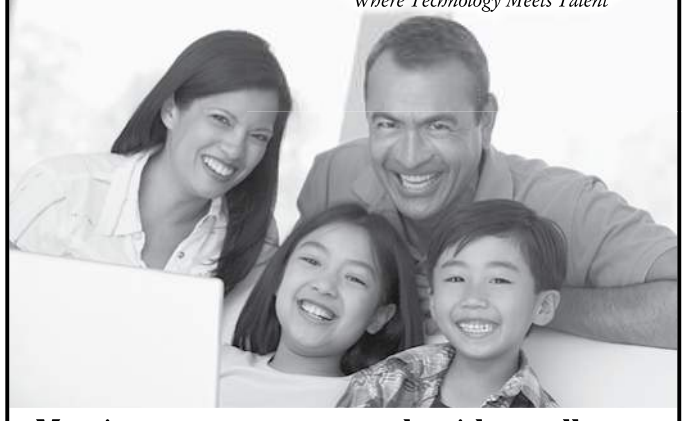

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'Kids exposed to domestic violence perpetuate cycle'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Award-winning American newspaper columnist Renee Mitchell enjoy light a moment with anti-domestic violence advocates after a forum at the American Memorial Park Theater Wednesday night.

Children who are brought up in homes where domestic violence prevails are more likely to become initiators of violence when they grow up, said an award-winning newspaper columnist who is on Saipan to conduct several awareness programs to educate victims.

Renee Mitchell, who penned her last column for The Oregonian on Oct. 1, 2008, is famous for touching readers with her tales of single parenthood and sparked thoughtful debate on issues of race and personal responsibility.

"A big percentage of the kids who grow up in a hostile environment in the home would think that violence is just natural, so when they enter into relationships in the future, they will carry on the vicious cycle and not think of it as anything bad," Mitchell told her audience at a multi-media presentation held Wednesday night at the American Memorial Park theater.

"Domestic violence should not happen to anybody, and children should not see any form of domestic violence in the home because they learn by example," she said.

Mitchell portrayed the different forms of domestic violence that victims from all over the world suffer.

"The problem with domestic violence is that majority of the victims refuse to acknowledge it, and they bear with it, hoping that their partners will change in the future, but this never happens," Mitchell said.

She added that that hesitation to report and take a stand against domestic violence on the part of the victims is one cause why the number of domestic violence cases is increasing not only in the CNMI but all over the world.

"Oftentimes, the victims think having the perpetrators sent to jail is not the best option for their families," she said.

She said most of the victims just want their partners to stop.

"It is high time for victims to stand up and put a stop to the incidents of domestic violence. Victims should realize that their lives are valuable and they need to realize that there is still hope for them to regain their lost self-esteem," Mitchell said.

She added that once the victims realize they don't have to bear with the violence, they would feel free and not helpless anymore.

October has been declared as the 14th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Some of the activities slated for the month of October includes information dissemination at the Garapan Street Market on Thursdays where they will put up a booth, presentations at the Pacific Islands Club and American Memorial Park, softball goodwill tournaments, candlelight vigil and trophy presentations on Tinian, and a Halloween Men's walk/candlelight vigil at the Garapan Fishing Base on Oct. 31.

'Ice' trafficker gets 37 months in jail

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson slapped yesterday a 37-month prison term on a man who was arrested for selling methamphetamine or "ice" near a public school on Saipan.

Munson gave defendant Guang Jing Chen, a Chinese, credit for the time he has already served in jail since being arrested last June.

After completing the prison sentence, the 45-year-old Chen will be placed on three years of supervised release and immediately delivered to Immigration authorities for deportation.

The judge ordered the defendant to pay a $300 special assessment fee and perform 100 hours of community service.

Munson ordered the U.S. Marshal to have the defendant assessed for health problems while in custody and for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to provide him treatment.

At the hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum recommended a 37-month prison term. Defense attorney G. Anthony Long recommended a lesser sentence.

Last Aug. 27, Chen pleaded guilty to three counts of distribution of a controlled substance.

A Drug Enforcement Administration special agent stated in his report that Chen was arrested after he sold $500 worth of "ice" to an undercover agent in front of a school in San Antonio. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NOTICE OF ISSUANCE
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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

CNMI Governor Benigno R. Fitial, on *September 26, 2008*, approved and issued *Qualifying Certificate No. QC 2008-01 for Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort* ("the Beneficiary").

Address. The address of the Beneficiary is *Kagman*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

Investment. The Beneficiary will invest approximately $*54.2 million* to *construct and operate a golftel facility, including the renovation of its existing 36-hole golf course* located at *Kagman*, municipality of *Saipan*, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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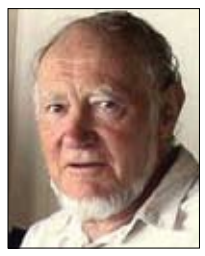
Land rights, monuments presentations set

Visiting professors Jon Van Dyke and Ron Crocombe will discuss indigenous land rights and marine monuments during a series of public presentations in October sponsored by the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities.

The presentation series will kick off with "Indigenous Land Rights in the Pacific: Views from Hawaii and the South Pacific" starting at 9am, Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Visitors Center Theater of the American Memorial Park.

Dyke


Crocombe

During this presentation, Van Dyke will examine a number of legal questions relating to indigenous rights during a talk titled "Rights of Indigenous Peoples under U.S. and International Law." This will be followed by two presentations by Crocombe titled "Constraints on Land Rights in the South Pacific" and "The Current Drive for Land Reform in the South Pacific."

The second part of the series features a presentation by Van Dyke titled "What are Marine Monuments?" It will start at 6:30pm on Oct. 18 at the AMP's Visitors Center Theater.

During his talk, Van Dyke will explore a number of legal and practical issues relating to marine monuments, with a special focus on the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Van Dyke and Crocombe will give these same presentations at public venues on Rota and Tinian on Oct. 20 and 21. Crocombe will also visit classes at Northern Marianas College on Oct. 22.

Van Dyke is on the faculty of the University of Hawaii School of Law where he teaches Constitution and International Law. He has authored five books and has worked on problems relating to the status of Native Hawaiians, nuclear waste, ocean law, and human rights.

Crocombe is professor emeritus of Pacific Studies at the University of the South Pacific in Raratonga, Cook Islands. He is a recognized authority on land tenure and land policies in the Pacific and has written widely on these subjects.

This series, supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is a part of the Humanities Council's ongoing efforts to facilitate public dialogue on important community issues. ***(PR)***

Welch is new chief of AG's Civil Division

Anthony Welch, a veteran lawyer with nearly three decades of experience, has won an appointment as chief of the civil division in the CNMI Attorney General's Office, the office said Wednesday.

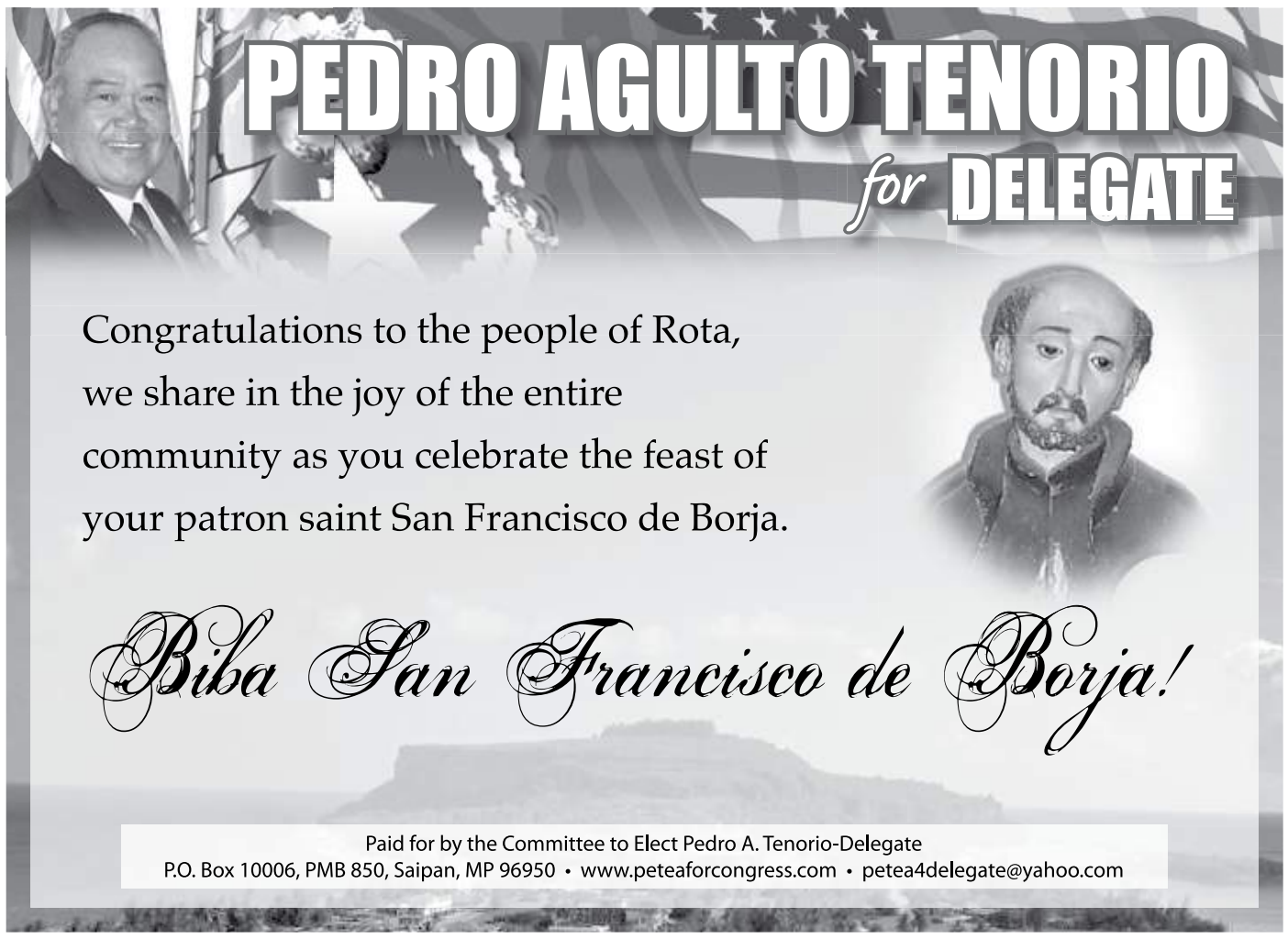
Acting Attorney General Gregory Baka in a memo announced Welch's new position.

"I have full confidence in his ability to meet the challenges and demands that accompany this appointment," Baka said.

Welch came to the CNMI after serving as an assistant attorney general on Guam and had previously served as secretary of justice in the Federated States of Micronesia. His extensive legal career also includes litigation on behalf of the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the West Virginia Worker's Compensation fund among other clients.

In an interview, Welch welcomed his new role.

"I'm really proud of the people I'm working with and I think that the job will be a lot easier because of the quality of the people in this office," he said. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The students of Green Meadow School after the PGFC competition held Oct. 4 at the Kagman Elementary School.

Green Meadow's PGFC winners

The students of Green Meadow School brought honor to their school after taking home several awards from the PGFC competition held Oct. 4 at the Kagman Elementary School.

K-2 DIVISION: (K-5- 2nd Grade)

1ST Place : Dramatic Interpretation: – Kristina Crisostomo
1st Place: Reader's Forum: Jerique Reineer Suba
1st Place: Duo: Ryan Louis Divino & Anniea Sofia Saturno
1st Place: Choral Speaking: 1. Kimvherly Ann Dela Cruz
2. Angel Mae Oropesa
3. Deirdre Mae Rosete
4. Kiana Joyce Valencia

2nd Place: Dramatic Interpretation: Pionnah Rosej Gregorio
2nd Place: Reader' Forum: Danielle Pineda
2nd Place: Duo: Angel Mae Oropesa & Deirdre Mae Rosete
2nd Place: Choral Speaking: 1. Ian Willard Ranin
2. Dustin Ross Salilin
3. Ardel AustinCiolo
4. Art Vincent Alfeche
5. Sean Aaron Ancheta

3rd Place: Humorous Interpretation: Angel Sean Legaspi
3rd Place: Choral Speaking: 1. Natalie Hirsbein
2. Kelly Acebo
3. Jemimah Borromeo
3rd Place: Duo: Kimvherly Ann Dela Cruz & Kiana Joyce Valencia

4th Place: Dramatic Interpretation: Claire Marzan
4th Place: Humorous Interpretation: Jhanylin Cruz
4th Place: Choral Speaking: 1. Claire Marzan
2. Jhanylin Cruz
3. Mikee Mendoza
4. Kristina Crisostomo
5. Christian Palattao
4th Place: Duo: Art Vincent Alfeche & Ian Willard Ranin
4th Place: Impromptu: Jerique Reineer Suba

5th Place: Choral Speaking: 1. Andrea Monique Agtarap
2. Ryan Louis Divino
3. Gabrielle Shanikka Flores
4. Anniea Sofia Saturno

COACHES:
PGFC Coordinator- Ms. Grace Rosete
K-5- Ms. Sony Natividad
1st Grade-Ms. Jehan Mangahis
2nd and 4th Grade– Ms. Ellen Alejo
3rd Grade- Ms. Marilyn Divino

3-5 DIVISION: (3rd – 5th Grade)

1st Place: Dramatic Interpretation: Ma. Theresa Dalusong
1st Place: Reader's Forum: Amelito Dalusong Jr.
1st Place: Choral Speaking: 1. Bert Magallano
2. Keandre Deseo
3. Joshua Saturno
4. Patricia Sablan
5. Mary Grace Briones

2nd Place: Dramatic Interpretation: Bert Magallano
2nd Place: Duo B: Ian Lemuel Elnas & Piolo Gregorio
2nd Place: Duo C: Claire Calage & Patricia Sablan
2nd Place: Choral Speaking: 1. Chekaina Viel Coloma
2. Claire Calage
3. Kathleen Trinidad

3rd Place: Dramatic Interpretation: Chekaina Viel Coloma
4th Place: Reader's Forum Master: Kaela Mae Valencia
4th Place: Choral Speaking: 1. Danielle Coloma
2. Ma. Fatima Briones
3. Kaela Mae Valencia

5th Place: Humorous Interpretation: Danielle Coloma
5th Place: Reader's Forum Novice: Kathleen Trinidad

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 10, 2000

Investors pledge $25M on shooting resort
In what could be the biggest tourism investment in the Northern Marianas after so many years, a newly-formed business corporation comprised mostly of Korean business players is embarking on its first multi-million dollar project to develop an international shooting resort in the CNMI. Union Rich Saipan, a development company that's also planning to build major commercial infrastructures on the islands, is prepared to invest over $25 million for the construction of "shooting resorts," said its company Chief Executive Officer Se-ung Kim.

Garment industry pours $80M into CNMI coffers
The garment industry provided over a third of the total revenues of the government in 1999, or nearly $80 million of the taxes and fees collected in the CNMI, according to the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association. Based on preliminary statistics, SGMA said of the total amount, $42 million were collected in users fees paid by garment manufacturers as well as $17 million in wage and salary taxes.

Independent public lands' office proposed
Due to potential conflict in administering scarce land resources by the government, lawmakers have moved to grant greater autonomy to the Division of Public Lands and the Board of Public Lands under legislation amending existing law. The House of Representatives last week paved the way to separate the two key agencies from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, citing "inherent conflict" with the current set-up.

October 10, 2001

Teno: Don't be afraid
With alert levels at their highest since the Gulf War, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio sought to assure people in the CNMI that steps are now being taken to ensure their safety and security, in the wake of the US attack on Afghanistan. "I would like to assure the members of the community that we're working very closely with the Department of Public Safety and all the other agencies here in the CNMI and we also continue to meet with officials of federal agencies to update us on what is going on," Tenorio said.

US Navy: No imminent threat of bioterrorism in the Pacific
The United States Navy yesterday said there is no imminent threat of a biological weapons attack by terrorists in the entire Pacific region, including the CNMI. This, even as the CNMI was placed on the highest level of alert after local law enforcement officials met with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Monday, right after the US and its allies launched their attacks on Afghanistan's Taliban regime, which reportedly coddles terrorist leader Osama bin Laden.

PSS' student-teacher ratio high at 21:1
Public elementary schools are thriving on an average of 21:1 student-teacher ratio this school year, according to a newly-released report by the Public School System's Human Resources Office. Based on the PSS' latest staffing data prepared by Human Resources Officer Charlie Kentey, there are 21.5 students per one teacher in public grade schools as of October 3, 2001.

October 10, 2002

Senate 'raid' raises questions FBI involvement
Still stunned a day after FBI agents raided his Saipan Legislative Office over allegations of misconduct, Rota Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig had lingering questions he wants answered: One, why was the FBI involved? And two, why were he and Tinian Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz singled out among other Senate members? Atalig, who was on Rota when federal agents searched his Saipan office, expressed confusion over the foray, saying if the investigation was really about the employment of Dela Cruz's daughter, then why was the FBI in the picture?

Exemption from ports strike sought
Hours after a federal judge approved President Bush's request to reopen West Coast ports, local political and business leaders agreed to write separate letters to the president, the Department of the Interior and the dockworkers' union to ask for an exemption for the CNMI from the strike. At the same time, the Babauta administration is asking the business community and the public to refrain from price gouging and hoarding as these will only further deepen the impact of the ports lockout on the fragile CNMI economy.

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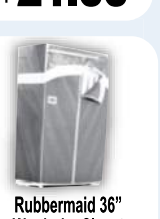

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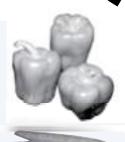

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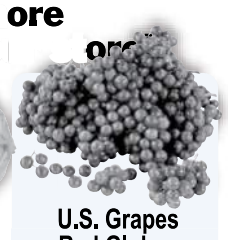

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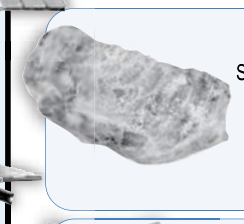

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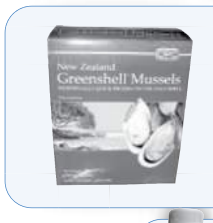

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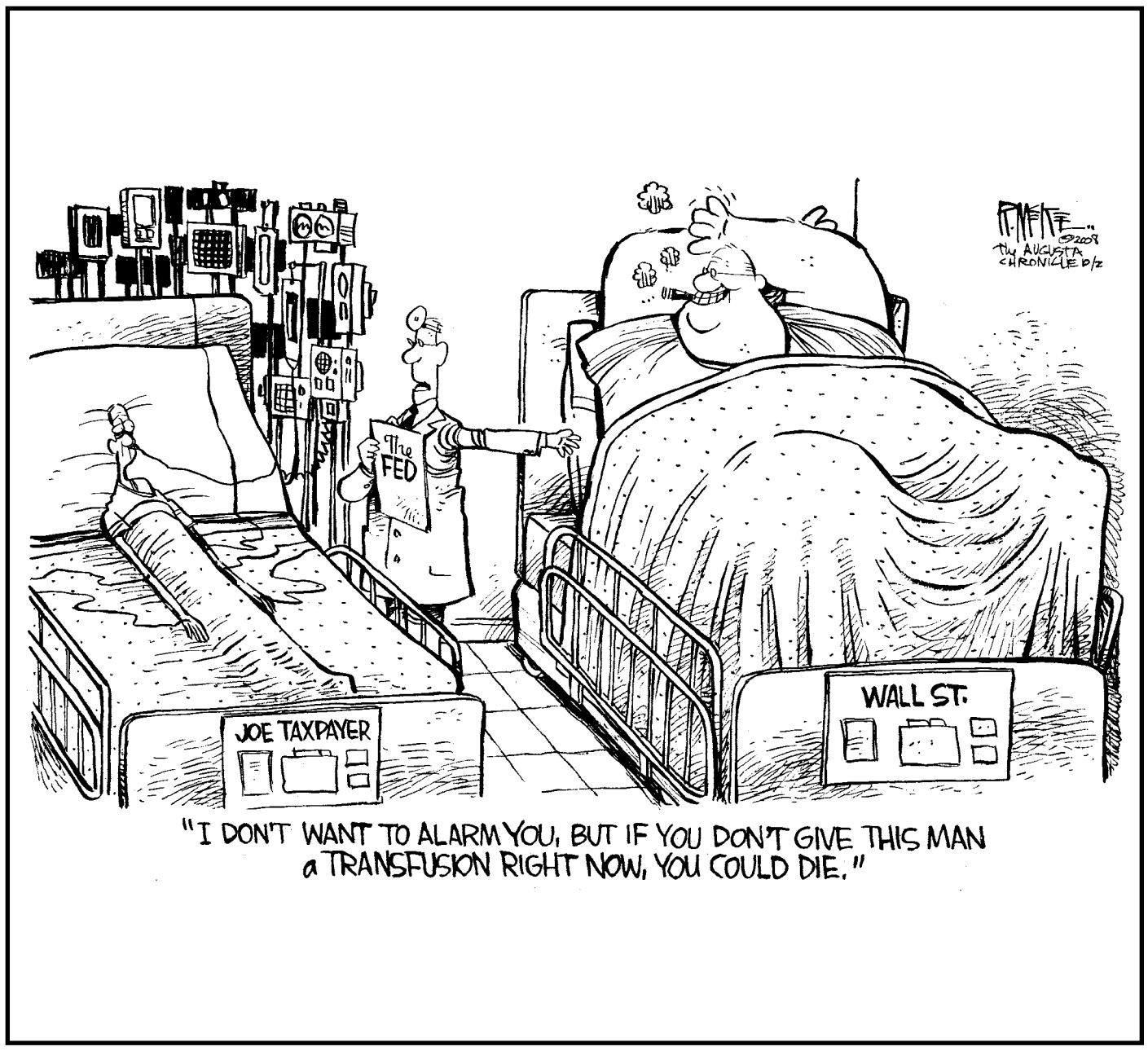
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

Editor's Note: The Editorial Forum that was scheduled for publication in today's edition has been re-scheduled to Friday next week, Oct. 17, due to space constraints. We apologize for the inconvenience.



EDITORIAL

One small step

We're not fond of the any-port-in-a-storm style of lawmaking in Congress. Bills that should pass on their own strengths are cluttered with measures of dubious merit that otherwise couldn't get approved. And sometimes, worthy legislation that can't be reconciled between the two houses is attached to bills that must pass. It is in this latter category of necessary evil that extension of the production tax credit became law on Friday as part of the $700 billion federal rescue plan.

Tax credits for the nascent wind and solar industries are vital if those industries are to become commercially viable and help reduce the nation's dependence on fossil fuels. The new law extends the credits for wind for one year and for solar for eight. But for much of this year, the tax provision was hung up in a protracted game of legislative ping-pong between the House and the Senate. Despite widespread support, repeated attempts at passage failed because of fights over how and whether to pay for the entire tax package in which the energy credits were bundled. The House insisted that the package be fully paid for. The Senate insisted otherwise and ultimately got its way.

After the House rejected the rescue plan last week, Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid, D-Nev., saw an opening to get the tax package approved by attaching it to the Senate's must-pass legislation. He succeeded by a vote of 74 to 25. The House followed suit on Friday, even though, of the $150 billion added to the bill, only $43.5 billion spread over 10 years was paid for with new revenue measures. The energy provisions were among those that Congress did end up paying for, to the tune of $18 billion, including by means of a requirement for brokers to report to the Internal Revenue Service the price paid for stock they trade. The goal is more accurate reporting and independent verification of capital gains by investors, who now self-report.

The path Congress used to get this result was not ideal, but the result is welcome. Renewal of the energy tax credits is a small step on the road to decreased dependence on fossil fuels. Because both Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama are committed to achieving such reductions, those steps should become bolder and more frequent no matter who the next president is.

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Zany, mad-cap antics

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

As the economic Panic of 2008 continues, I hope that long time *Saipan Tribune* readers have remained aloof from the mob hysteria and zany financial antics. After all, I was one of very few economics writers in the world's print medium to warn, years in advance, that the U.S. would suffer a meltdown from its ingestion of so much toxic debt.

The Panic isn't news. It was inevitability.

In fact, if the inevitable did NOT happen, well, that would be news. It would mean that the laws of economics had been repealed. I can assure you that they have not been repealed. Ignored, by some, yes. Not understood by most, yes again. But repealed? Nope. Although the timing of the meltdown couldn't be predicted years ago, the event itself was entirely foreseeable.

OK, so what next for the Commonwealth? This is, after all, an event of global significance.

Well, this is a substantial opportunity, or rather, a reminder of that opportunity. For the Commonwealth's "leaders" it won't be heeded, but many *Saipan Tribune* readers, by contrast, are already heeding it.

The opportunity, which isn't exactly a brilliant insight, in one shot: Although Asia (by which I mean industrial Asia) will have some ugly news, even disasters, to deal with from the U.S. financial problems, Asia will, in the long run, emerge stronger, will be the world's preeminent economic player, and will likewise be brimming with ever-richer tourists looking for sand and sunshine. Whew. That's everything of local significance boiled down to one run-on sentence.

As for the Commonwealth, by which I mean the local government and its dedicated and dependent little cells in the electorate, it will, as always, be business-as-usual. The outside world, including the U.S. economy, or the Asian economy, or the global economy, means nothing to these guys. Politics is the sole extent of this conceptual universe. "Bota, Bota, Bota."

As for other folks, though, I find it exciting to correspond with such an internationally engaged readership. That's why I like e-mail from readers. We're in for a great ride in the coming years. You business managers and owners on Saipan, in Guam, China, Taiwan, Philippines, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, and even (sometimes) in Vietnam, well, you ARE the future. When you email me and give me your observations, your ideas, and even some highlights of your projects, this really helps me fit the pieces of the big puzzle together.

Part of the magic, indeed, of the Commonwealth is the sprawling web of Asia-Pacific professionals who have footholds in the CNMI, and who have stuff going all on over the region. In addition, Saipan has many alumni who have moved onto more functional economies who still follow Commonwealth affairs, and who still swap insights and information with me.

So I know that many of you have been betting on the Asian Century. You are making smart moves. Risky moves, in some cases, but such is the nature of thinking a few steps ahead. I mean, when the alternative is not thinking at all, well, there you have it.

Speaking of which, many (not all, but surprisingly many) of your counterparts in the Prozac Nation have ceded management of their own lives to any institution or demagogue who had a slick sales pitch. The Panic of 2008 is probably in its infancy; just wait until the masses figure out that their pensions are worth less than my old gym socks. Some odd notion in the states goes that if you collectivize something, then everybody gets more of it, since the pile is so big. The more vague things are, and the more raw emotion that is injected into the discussions, the more that the masses will demand economic schemes. So, plenty more schemes are on the way.

As the Panic of 2008 plays out, the volatility will make short-term predictions difficult. But, beneath it all, we will see the U.S. following one path, and most of industrial Asia following another. The world's important economies are, at long last, showing tangible evidence of the social pressures that have been building for decades. This show is just getting started. So get some popcorn, it will be very interesting.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Impact of federal lawsuit

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Members of the US Subcommittee on Insular Affairs have started weighing-in on the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure new immigration rules and regulations favor the CNMI.

Ooops! Attitudes have morphed from "threats" to "whispers", a quiet acknowledgment that their work product—Public Law 110-229—is fatally catastrophic against an already dismal economic condition in the CNMI. Well, the GAO report said so and I couldn't believe subcommittee members failed to take heed of the impending reduction in economic activities by as much as 50 percent. It must be a case of advancing to the rear!

But then politicians seem immune to the kinder, gentler impulses that quicken the conscience in the rest of us. The fact that they never had to live the net result of economic devastation they crafted is the very reason for the fitting imposition of arrogance. Am I making sense?

The closure and final departure of the garment industry next year—once generating $1.2 billion annually and remitting some $32 million into the local coffers in direct taxes—is now all but history. Did opponents or evil geniuses that fought long and hard to see its final closure offer economic substitutes? Has anybody seen Congressman George Miller, Alan Stayman, David Cohen and other nemesis of the CNMI? Nothing can be further from the truth!

This attitude reminds me of what U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in his book, *My Grandfather's Son*: "… when they want to kill you, they will" referring to the vicious and heavily contentious hearing on his nomination. But like a famous nationally syndicated journalist remarked, "Don't let the bastards wear you down." Indeed, they can subject the livelihood of the indigenous people to far deeper than abject poverty, but we will give *not* up what's our rights guaranteed under the Covenant agreement.

It's about time too to analyze U.S. economic policy in the CNMI. Let's see what the other side of the Pacific divide did to improve relations. After all, the federal government trashed the report submitted by the Commission on Federal Laws. The feds called it a "waste of time." It's mind boggling why would it scrap the very vehicle provided to fulfill the U.S. government's obligation to "provide for a progressively higher standard of living" for the indigenous people of these isles.

The days of the so-called Zoo Theory is history. It has no place in the daily conduct of global affairs in the 21st century. The CNMI will never be Los Angeles, San Francisco or New York City for we haven't any aspiration to emulate what's woefully foreign to our lifestyle. These isles will remain the permanent venue for all Chamolinians who were born here. Admittedly, we have a lot of catching up to do. But it must be done "Our Way" premise on the time-honored traditions of this archipelago.

So a lot of whispering or tiptoeing through the garden is crossing the Capitol right into Pennsylvania Avenue. But this Johnny Come Lately advice via email includes a footnote: *"provided the CNMI drops the lawsuit"*. Well, we're only asking for our rights and there seems to be real substance in the lawsuit we've filed, for it must have stirred some shocking reaction among subcommittee members. It's very American to seek redress via the court system! Let's be upfront with our misgivings and please don't impose that arrogant Anglo-Saxon superiority complex against us. We're too familiar with it, having read and learned of all its ugliness from courses we've taken in U.S. History.

In vernacular: *I guihan kulan linala` taotao. i tiyan guiya i presente, i dadalag i finaposta, i ilu i futtunata. Mauleg ta komprende man-ginen mano hit mage, mano `nai mangaige hit pago yan presisu na ta planea haf` sesso ta diseseha para futuron famaguon-ta. Dinaña gi hilo inagloflie yan antao na relasion sumen presisu na pisu gi tinituhon satton na inapipet piot gi halom rimulinon didog na chinatsaga. Fanacho natibu gi todo pinetsigen direchon taotao-ta. Si Yuus Maase`!*

John S. DelRosario is the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Letters to the Editor

Let's set the record straight

In yesterday's Letters to the Editor of the *Saipan Tribune*, Ambrose Bennett misquotes me and publicly misinterprets the intentions of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers.

I absolutely did *not* inform Mr. Bennett that I was working with the board and the governor to create an "exclusive bargaining representative of teachers within PSS." There are no "backroom" deals as Mr. Bennett alludes to. Teachers want a voice on the Board of Education, and are entitled to one under the CNMI Constitution. I simply stated ACT was working with the Governor's Office and Board of Education to determine the process *this administration* would use in the appointment of a Teacher's Representative.

Below you will find the full text of the e-mail sent to Mr. Bennett. (dated Oct. 4, 2008 with cc copies to all members of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers and duly posted on our website www.cnmiactnow.com under the link Communication from President to Membership.). We trust interested members of the community will be able to read the correspondence and interpret for themselves whether or not Mr. Bennett's accusations hold any merit.

Email correspondence from ACT president Betty Miller to Ambrose Bennett, Oct. 4, 2008:

"I'm sorry Ambrose,

"With all due respect, I strongly disagree with your statement 'This is not about ACT and you are only trying to see how ACT can keep control which is not fair to all teachers. This has been the main inhibitor to teachers and my efforts to get all teachers to the bargaining table.'

"Your lack of attendance at BOE meetings and ACT meetings make it impossible for you to have a clue as to how our organization currently runs or what we do. The Association of Commonwealth Teachers invites all interested members of the community to attend our meetings and share their perspectives prior to voting. The election for our officers was open to all teachers in the CNMI, regardless of membership in the organization, and garnered 290 votes. Our email list includes many who have chosen not to join the Association, but would like to remain informed and involved. Our website and blog are opened to all members of the public. We have not charged a membership fee for two years, because we have no need to collect money in order to listen to and speak on behalf of teachers. The matters we take to the BOE are those that have been brought to the attention of ACT, we do not check for membership to determine whether or not we will speak on behalf of this teacher. We do not now, nor will we ever, be so arrogant as to profess we speak for all teachers. The decisions that we make and the actions that we take are a reflection of those who have taken time to express a concern or opinion.

"While I have patiently and respectfully bit my tongue as you publicly degrade this Association, I will not allow you to sabotage our hard work toward reaching an amicable agreement with PSS/BOE/GOV as to what it will take for this administration to appoint a teacher's rep. to the Board of Education. The procedure you are proposing is from a former administration, which our current Governor has already stated he does not intend to follow. Why put all teachers through this process with no guarantee that it will yield a Teacher Representative to the Board of Education? Again, with all due respect, as much as we appreciate your input as to the "red letter of the law" you are not the one making the final decision. We will wait for a procedure from those in power to make the appointment.

"We have stated time and again that we will happily participate in any required election for a Teacher Rep. to the Board of Education. In keeping with our bylaws we will endorse our president as a candidate. Yet, when an election was organized by independent teachers, no one came forward. If you felt so strongly you were the best candidate, why did you not step forward at that time? An election would have been held, the winner duly announced, and we wouldn't be facing the challenges we are now. We asked for the appointment of our President because no one else came forward and we wanted teachers to have a voice on the BOE. It was never our intention to circumvent any required procedure or process. It is a matter of public record we have been asking for guidance on the required process since June, 2007, well in advance of the expiration of your term. We did this because we wanted to ensure a seamless transition between the end of your term and beginning of the next. So let us be clear, the Association of Commonwealth Teachers bears no responsibility for the current lack of a teacher representative. As a matter of fact, a review of the records will show we have inquired of the BOE/GOV repeatedly as to the process needed for an appointment to be garnered.

"Once a procedure has been agreed upon by those with the authority to make an appointment, I guarantee you we will wholeheartedly participate, and of course will appreciate any assistance you are willing to provide. In addition, should another attempt at an election be necessary we encourage you or any other interested teacher to run."

Betty Miller
ACT President

Investigate MDC's eviction

Congratulations are in order for the Secretary of Public Lands and Representatives Tina Sablan and Ed Salas. Once given the opportunity, the secretary reviewed the legislation sponsored by the Tinian delegation and adopted by both the CNMI House and the Senate that would have given the Mayor of Tinian, the Tinian Delegation, and the Tinian Municipal Council sole control over certain important parcels of public land on Tinian. As the secretary correctly stated in his proper review of the legislation, it was unconstitutional. Public lands do not belong in the hands of politicians.

It should be remembered that when the bill reached the floor of the House, no public hearing had been conducted on Tinian or Saipan. Wisely, Representatives Tinian Sablan and Ed Salas suggested that the bill should be referred to the appropriate committee, according to the officially adopted House standing rules, so that the secretary would have time to review the bill and give comment. The rest of the Legislature ignored this sound advice and passed the bill anyway, saying they "trust" the Tinian delegation to know what is right for the people of Tinian. Now they know that the Tinian legislative delegation is not worthy of the public trust they were sworn to uphold.

There is a related issue that the Legislature and the secretary should investigate immediately. On or about Sept. 5 the Tinian delegation, without public hearing, refused to accept the Micronesian Development Corp.'s request for an extension on their lease. Knowing that their lease was expiring, the MDC management had been in the process of clearing away all the scrap metal on their property and generally cleaning up, including offering the general public an opportunity to buy the remaining cattle at much reduced prices. Instead of giving MDC a short extension, allowing them to finish the cleanup, the mayor sent Tinian DPS to evict the MDC employees from their homes. Despite the fact that these residents had been contributing members of our community for so many years, they were thrown out on the street. Approximately 100 head of cattle were left unaccounted for.

Now, the roads into MDC are officially closed to all except the mayor's office's special employees. MDC has become the personal cow hunting grounds for the mayor's office. Who knows what is happening to the buildings on MDC property, the employees concrete barracks and the manager's house, and the fencing, which should now be public lands assets—the people's assets—not possessions of the mayor's office and his cronies.

This is a tragic end to the legacy of Ken Jones, the Tinian MDC ranch, their Tinian shareholders, and the men and women who have worked for MDC since 1965. The Bar-K ranch has provided employment to dozens of local families, and brought many new and productive people to our island. I would ask the Secretary of Public Lands to immediately visit the property, make a proper determination on the status of the MDC lease assets, and proscribe a proper mechanism for their management.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

Questionable appointment

Does anyone find it, well, absurd that the former comptroller for the MPLA has been appointed comptroller of the NMI Retirement fund?

The comptroller's job is to control the finances of an organization. It is well known that the MPLA was one of the worst abusers of public funds. And now the same person who allowed blatant abuse of public funds will be in charge of the Retirement Fund. And he, Mr. David Demapan, has only been at the Retirement Fund for two months. Governor Fitial demanded legal action against the MPLA members. Yet nothing was ever done.

And now Fitial is allowing this same person to be recycled through the Retirement Fund. Hello, nepotism at its worst, and goodbye to the retirement funds. Another disaster waiting to happen. If I had that kind of influence, I could go rob a bank one day and be the bank VP the next. A very creative way to run things. By the way...what *did* happen to the investigation of the MPLA?

Bill Weiss
Saipan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

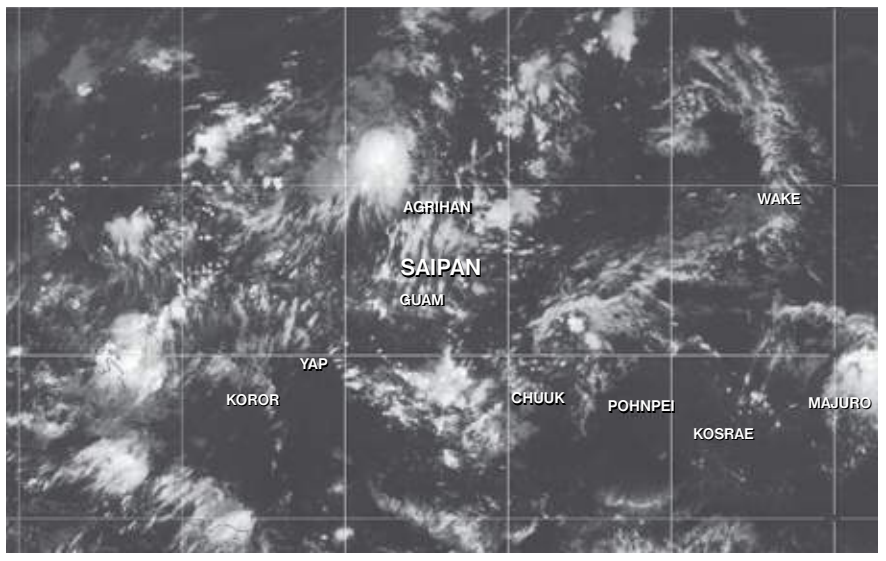
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼73

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲58	▼51
Beijing	Cloudy	▲64	▼45
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲84	▼78
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼74
London	Cloudy	▲66	▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲76	▼54
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼56
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲69	▼58
Osaka	Cloudy	▲74	▼66
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼52
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼51
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼56
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲69	▼52
Seoul	Showers	▲68	▼48
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲74	▼71
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼60

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered northwest of Wake Island near 25N159E. An upper-level trough extends southwestward from the low to 20N150E to 15N149E. Scattered showers are found between 23N and 25N from 149E to 154E. Divergence aloft combined with low-level winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of the Marianas between 20N and 25N from 139E to 144E. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from a circulation centered near 11N129E to Koror at 7N135E to 4N137E. Another surface trough extends northward from the circulation to 25N135E. Scattered showers are found between 12N and 14N from 130E to 133E. Also between 20N and 24N from 130E to 133E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring west of Chuuk in an area from 3N150E to 3N145E to 10N140E to 10N150E back to 3N150E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Kwajalein between 6N and 10N east of 170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:49AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:03AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:10PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:07PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	6:08AM	5:59 PM
Sunday	6:08AM	5:59 PM
Monday	6:08AM	5:58 PM
Tuesday	6:08AM	5:57 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:43PM	1:41AM
Saturday	3:22PM	2:33AM
Sunday	4:00PM	3:25AM
Monday	4:39PM	4:18AM
Tuesday	5:20PM	5:12AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Saturday, October 18, 2008

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Walk starts at 5pm

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17 September 2008

Dear All Valued Customers:

It is to state that milk powder in our products: Assam Milk Tea, Assam Green Milk Tea, Assam Strawberry Milk Tea, Assam Apple Milk Tea, Assam Prague Milk Tea, Assam Tibetan Milk Tea, Assam Vanilla Milk Tea, My Café is made in New Zealand, INTERFOOD AUSTRALIA PTY LTD. It is accepted by New Zealand governing laws. It contains no substance that could be harmful for human consumption.

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Mr. Mao Sheng, Li
General Manager
T. Grand International Co., Ltd

T.Grand Assam Milk Tea Products are assured
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MICROL TOYOTA SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

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Auto, Beige, Stock: U07-064T
License: ABY-153
Mileage: 56882
~~PRICE $14,599~~
REDUCED PRICE
$12,599

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-015F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	59734	WHITE	ADJ-831	9,299	
R08-018F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	44981	WHITE	ABY-667	8,199	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO		WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	26,899
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,899~~	10,599
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	6,999	
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	5,399
GM VAN								
R08-017F	2003	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	117560	WHITE	BUS-1077	9,499	
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~19,185~~	19,099

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TOYOTA ACDelco

Letters to the Editor

Down with the offensive language

Dear Representatives: I want to state for the record that I am extremely disappointed by the conduct of one of your colleagues, who blasted Rep. Tina Sablan two days ago during a House session, and said that Tina is just "bitching, bitching, bitching." These types of words are derogatory, inappropriate, unprofessional, and downright rude! Add to the fact that this is a female colleague? It also has sexist connotations!

I cannot believe that none of you scolded your colleague for using such offensive language. The thing is, Tina brushed it off, as she has thicker skin than anyone I know. Of course, your colleague said that by bitching, he meant complaining. Call it what you want. It is still extremely offensive. What's next? Will it be acceptable to use four-letter expletives during your House sessions?

Tina can handle her own battles, and she certainly doesn't need me or anyone else defending her. That is not my point here. My point here is that all of you must remember that debate is a part of your job. You must fight for us and use reason and logic, and reason and logic does not include offensive language.

Let me remind you that it was only a handful of you that voted against the Aggreko contract. I was up there, and I testified against it. While we are enjoying 24-hour power once again, my question to you is, at whose expense are we enjoying this 24-hour power? As we are now finding out, Aggreko may not be compliant with EPA's clean air standards. So why wasn't this looked into before Aggreko was declared the only viable solution to solve our power crisis? Did you not hear us when we said that we must explore other options on the table? Where is your due diligence? Why was Telesource Tinian completely ignored? The fact is, did any of you even talk to Telesource? Did you not know that they were prepared to ship down 10 megawatts of power that is sitting idle on Tinian, which would have saved us millions of dollars? Did you not hear Dr. Tom Arkle when he stated that the CNMI could have purchased 20 megawatts of Caterpillar engines at the mere cost of $40,000 per month? Instead, we are paying $504,000 per month, just for renting Aggreko's engines that we cannot own. And now, Dr. Arkle recently found out that we could have purchased the same type of Aggreko engines for less than half of what we are paying to rent them. And they would have been brand new, and compliant with EPA standards!

In light of this and other matters, it is obvious that Tina is thinking, not just complaining. She wanted all of you to look at other options. The fact that all of you did not do your homework has resulted in millions of dollars that we have basically thrown away. Are we any closer to fixing CUC's engines? No. So what does that mean? Most likely, the one-year agreement with Aggreko will easily turn in to a year and a half or two...or even three! We are throwing money away like it is nobody's business. In the meantime, Tina has preached for an honest and open government, better governance, less spending, etc. Is this what her colleague means by complaining?

Again, Tina can fight her own battles, and she doesn't need anyone coming to her defense. But I want it to be known that this type of offensive language must end. It is disgusting. I have been called a rabble-rouser by one of your colleagues. I laughed when I read it. But using the word "bitch" is not a laughing matter. Whether your colleague wants to dress it up and he really meant "complain" is not the point. An inappropriate word was used, and if he had any sense of dignity, he would issue to Tina Sablan an apology. Anything less shows his arrogance and his complete lack of humility.

By the way, how much of our taxpayers' money was wasted when you discussed Harry Blalock's conduct for a whole hour? Don't you have better things to do? Why can't that same energy be put into solving CUC? It is this type of madness that has upset your constituents. Please tell your colleagues that if they are so offended by what Harry has to say, turn the dial. It is quite simple. In the meantime, I will continue to listen to KZMI and Harry's food for thought, and I don't care if I agree or disagree with him. That is not the point. Harry gets people talking about the issues, and if anything, you should be commending him. What is better? A person who speaks out on issues, or a person who remains silent and pretends everything is just fine and dandy?

We have a lot of problems on our hands, and I am glad that Tina has been speaking out on the issues affecting all of us. You do not have to agree with her, but you should certainly listen to her and debate with her. That is a part of due diligence. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that Tina is offered an apology, and I sincerely hope that *no one* uses such foul and offensive language from this day forward.

Thank you for hearing me out.

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

Save the park's restroom, pathway

This past weekend, I visited the American Memorial Park's Micro Beach Pavilion, public restroom and pathway and to my surprise, the public restroom and pathway were permanently closed to the public. The area around the restroom is a disaster. Erosion is the cause of it; yes, I understand that part. The part I did not understand is "why" the heck didn't anybody do something about it years ago? The National Park Service should have taken action on this issue years ago; after all it is designated as a "national park."

The map of Saipan has changed due to erosion caused by strong wave action. The National Park Service and the CNMI should have worked together to tackle this problem. If they don't do nothing about it now, guess what? The public restroom and the pathway will be gone.

I recently heard that our neighboring island of Guam had a similar problem on the southern part of the island, and they have done something about. They put in place non-corrosive steel and large boulders and, eventually, concrete in the area. Now why can't the National Park Service and CNMI official do something similar like Guam did? Even the island of Oahu, Hawaii had the same problem years ago and they have done something about it years ago as well.

My message to those who have the power to do something about it is: Please take the lead, follow those that can or get the heck out of the way, and let's put people who can do something about it.

Joseph M Palacios
Dandan, Saipan

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Letters to the Editor

Misconception about net metering

The *Tribune*'s recent article, "Make money from CUC with net metering" is not correct. Properly applied, net metering does not produce money for the power company nor the user. It does allow an independent producer to supplement, through their own power generation, the power that they receive from the grid for their use and to return that power at a later time for no charge. To use the example in the article, if a customer produces 2,000 kwhs, but only uses 1,500 kwhs, he or she could sell the remaining 500 kwhs to CUC for half of CUC' rate. That is not net metering. That is an electricity production business for profit. Business profits are taxable income. An example of net metering is when a customer uses 3,000 kwhs in a month from CUC when the customer's source in not producing (such as no wind for wind generator) but during the month when the wind blows it produces an extra 2,000 kwhs that are put back into the CUC grid. The 2,000 kwhs are returned to CUC via the electrical meter that also runs backwards. So the customer gets 3,000 kwhs from CUC and returns 2,000 kwhs. The customer's net use for CUC electricity—hence the term net metering—is the 1,000 kwhs usage now showing on the meter. He pays CUC for that electricity. Net metering applies only to those customers that would still owe CUC at the end of the month regardless of the amount of the customer's electricity production. At this time, the savings from the net metering are not considered taxable income in the U.S.

Electricity production for profit opens up a host of problems for CUC and the producer. Two electricity meters are needed at each source. One to meter power in and one to meter power out. It would require a separate accounting system so CUC would to know who to pay and how much. And at the end of the year CUC might have to send IRS forms 1099 for miscellaneous income to some of those producers that made a few bucks selling their electricity to CUC. For the rest, that are tax returns, business licenses, GRTs, etc, for those small producers. Also, as commercial power plants, small producers will most likely need permits or waivers from EPA, DEQ, CRM, DLNR, DFW, and others. That is federal law. Selling your power to CUC at their terms—50 percent of the rate CUC charges—makes no sense if your production and amortized equipment costs exceed the price CUC is offering to pay. And since the purchase price of the excess power was established as law, they can change that law to 25 percent or 10 percent or whatever they choose, whenever that choose or when the legislators need new SUVs. But actually, I think that years ago federal courts ruled that monopolies such as CUC must pay small irregular producers the full rate for power purchased. The Legislature should check into that issue before they pass more bills loaded with their gobbledygook. With net metering none of this applies and CUC gets supplemental power to its grid and a reduction in demand with a lot less hassle and expense for everyone involved.

Net metering will never provide a significant amount of electricity to CUC's grid. It would take thousands of CUC customers producing small amounts of electricity and participating in net metering to put a small dent in the island's demand for electricity. But there is individual satisfaction that would come from producing renewable energy and taking some control over your electricity use and expenses. I am all in favor of that concept.

Brad Doerr
San Roque, Saipan

Wind power on Wireless Hill

I read with interest the article in the *Saipan Tribune* (Oct. 8, 2008, by Kristi Eaton), about wind power in which Alan Barak suggests that a person or company should be allowed to erect wind turbine systems in cooperation with CUC.

As I understand it, Barak said connections could be made with CUC so that when there was enough wind, the wind turbine system would supply the local premises with electricity, and that any excess power generated would be sold back to CUC at 50 percent of what CUC charges, and when the wind is not sufficient to supply the basic needs, CUC would automatically provide the location with electric power at the normal going rate.

I live and own property on Wireless Hill that I know would be ideal for this installation. For a year or more, I have been trying to figure out how I could afford to install such a system. I know that I cannot do it alone. With a federal grant it may be possible, but pursuing this would take a very long time, if ever. Another possible solution appeared.

I have in mind a joint venture wherein I would grant long-term legal arrangement to an individual or company. What I would like to propose is that my "partner" finance 100 percent of construction and maintenance costs of a fairly large wind turbine system which would be sized to produce several times what my household would use. I am willing to give, for example, 80 percent of all money received from CUC for excess power sold to CUC to my "partner." When the winds are not strong enough to meet my household needs, I would personally pay CUC, say 80 percent of the bill for any power we use from them, with the balance paid by my "partner." I am interested in hearing from any far-sighted individual, company, or other legal entity to consummate a legal agreements of this sort. My expectations are, of course, negotiable.

I can be reached by phone at 322-2268, or cell 287-2095, or email derry_noisom@yahoo.com.

Derry Noisom
Capital Hill, Saipan

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-027

CONSTRUCTION OF LAULAU BAY PATHWAY PHASE 1 KAGMAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Laulau Bay Pathway Phase 1 Kagman, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **(CNMI).**

The project package will be available on or after September 26, 2008 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further **Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on October 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Entrance of Laulau Bay Golf Course. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. AR questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 17, 2008 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW08-IFB-027**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 22, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 22, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 22, 2008, and must be received no later than October 31, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, November 5, 2008, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on October 27, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660".

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

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STOCK # 55151646
$9,995.00*

2006 Honda Civic LX
STOCK # 6L009897
$17,995.00*

2006 Nissan Armada 4x4
STOCK # 6N736174
$27,995.00*

SOLD
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STOCK # X0221184
$9,995.00*

2005 Ford Mustang
STOCK # 55105436
$23,995.00

2005 Nissan Frontier 4x4
STOCK # 5C424207
$17,995.00

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STOCK # 5PA78255
$12,995.00*

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Date: Oct. 02, 2008

King Car Food Ind. Co., Ltd.
ANNOUNCEMENT

Regarding the incident of tainted 3-in-1 instant coffees recently, King Car sincerely apologizes to all the consumers for causing any anxiety, and truly appreciates for those who support King Car for a long time.

King Car hereby solemnly declares that the current act of recall is restricted for "3 in 1 mixed powder" products ONLY. We also guarantee that the milk powder used in all canned coffee series products is sourced from New Zealand and Australia for over 25 years. No trace of Melamine is found in random samples after the inspections. Moreover, none of milk derivatives is used in any other items under the brand of King Car. Hence, ALL CANNED MR. BROWN COFFEES AND KING CAR TEA SERIES ARE NOT AFFECTED BY THE RECALL, AND ABSOLUTELY SAFE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

King Car Food Ind. Co., Ltd.

/s/
Chief of Export Dept. Mark Weng

Saipan Chamber of Commerce
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All 9 candidates have confirmed their participation.

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Letters to the Editor

Land of our fathers

Throughout history, one thing remains constant: land. Land defines many things. The culture of a people can be deduced simply by a statement of where they are from; heritage and pride of heritage are easily attributed by finding out from where someone was raised; family is many times accurately specified by their locale; and ancestral lines are researched from where a group of indigenous people settled. We are more than our physical appearances, more than our personal qualities; we are a part of our land.

Article XII was a means our forefathers created so their lineage would forever have claim to what was rightfully theirs. It was the means to ensure greed would not empty the family pocketbooks of land from the generations to come. It was, to them and us, one of the most important ideals to secure our heritage and culture from decline. It has been said, "If these walls could talk there would be many historical accounts of how our forefathers lived." I say to you now, if this land could talk there would be a great outcry from our ancestors in the direction our leaders are taking us now.

Times are indeed extremely difficult right now, and will continue getting worse before finally getting better. But this is no excuse to take acts of desperation; rather it is time to solidify one's foundation in undertaking struggle effectively! We must confidently act, in measured anticipation, in order to successfully endure this crisis.

The Native Americans lost something dear to them when the European immigrants of the past landed, for the first time, on the soil we now know as America. They were forced to leave the lands their families were raised on and many times died trying to defend it. Hundreds of thousands of Native Americans were wiped out from existence, soaking their ancestral soil with the blood of war. If given the chance to again go through the acts of their past, they would again fight for what was theirs. They have great pride in their ancestry and great respect for the land of their lineage. This is what we should emulate; this is how we should live regarding our lands.

Today, Native Americans are subject to small protected zones of land. They reside in reservations; in many cases their tribes did not reside in the land they were given. Lands that are desolate of the natural resources that were plentiful in the regions they were forcefully pushed from; land where their ancestors are now buried, due to the massacres of days past. At least their leaders/chiefs didn't sell out to make a quick buck and agree to sell their land to outsiders. They fought, died, bled, and struggled to keep the land that mothered them for generations. At least they respected their culture and heritage enough to die for what was right.

We, as indigenous NMI descendants, have a responsibility to our children and theirs, to ensure the land from which we came from will be theirs in the future. Anyone wanting to sell land to someone other than CNMI descendants is robbing future generations of what is rightfully theirs. It is truly sad to know there is some waiting to receive land through homestead and while they wait, officials are contemplating to repeal what our forefathers had the foresight to establish. I am a native Saipanese Chamorro. My family descended from the island of Saipan on both my maternal and paternal sides. My children are the direct descendants of the late master carver Tun Segundo Blas and Senate President Pete P. Reyes. Our families here in the continental United States are proud to be Chamorros and one day desire to return to our native home. Will we come home to a land owned by investors? It would be a sad and unforgivable thing. Do NOT repeal Article 12! There are ways to allow investors more lease time on land, which can benefit both the investor and the native resident of that land. But we ask, no, *demand*, that you not take away from us what is rightfully ours.

Dwayne P Blas Reyes
Sierra Vista, Arizona

Clarification on VA policy

This letter is in response to the letter of Oct. 2, 2008, addressing air transportation for veterans who reside in the Northern Marianna Islands. I write this to correct the mistaken statement and assumption in the letter to the editor and to reassure the loyal veterans of the Northern Marianna Islands that there has been no change in VA policy. The support of travel for eligible veterans who reside in the Northern Marianna Islands has not changed. These eligible veterans will continue to be supported for their travel needs that are necessary to support off island care approved by the Veterans Administration. We apologize for any confusion that might have resulted from discussions between the staff of the VA clinic in Guam and any of our patients.

James E Hastings, MD, FACP
Director, Veterans Affairs
Pacific Island Health
Care System

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SHRM to host Diversity Conference

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management announced that the CNMI Chapter Diversity Conference is on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 8:30am to 1pm at the Giovanni's Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Guest speakers will include James Rayphand, executive director for NMPASI, and Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Cost for members is $20 and non-SHRM members is $25.

All members are encouraged to come and bring a friend. Lunch and conference materials are included in the cost. ***(SHRM)***

MHS calendar of events

Oct. 13 No classes (Commonwealth Cultural Day)

Oct. 14 MHS Community Council Meeting (PTA), 5:30pm at MHS cafeteria.

The MHS Class of 2008 yearbook is in. You can pick up your copy from the MHS main office, Monday-Friday, 3:30pm-5pm. For questions and concerns contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

SSHS PTA meeting set

To all parents/legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School: There will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 6pm in the cafeteria. ***(PR)***

Men's Walk and Candlelight Vigil set

The Family Violence Task Force and its community partners are inviting all men and their family members to join the "Halloween Men's Walk" and "Candlelight Vigil."

The event will be held Oct. 31, Friday, 5:30pm, starting at the Garapan Fishing Base. Participants are urged to be at the site by 5pm. There will be free t-shirts to the first 100 marchers.

For more information, contact the Ayuda Network (322-7469); or Lugat Pas (662-4583). ***(PR)***

OES PTA meeting

The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of its students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008, 6:15pm, in the school cafeteria. ***(PR)***

CREAM to host delegate forum on Sunday

The Coalition for Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Ethnic Minorities, CREAM, will hold their forum with the candidates for the CNMI delegate on Sunday, Oct. 12, from 5pm to 7pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.

The four top vote getters for the U.S. delegate race that were chosen by the members of CREAM during their last mock election process held on Sept.17, 2008, were invited to participate in the forum. The four candidates are Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Pete A. Tenorio, John Oliver Gonzales and Juan T. Lizama.

Various questions and concerns affecting the lives and future of the people of the Commonwealth will be asked from the delegate candidates. The coalition expects meaningful and credible answers from the candidates, which will be the basis for selecting and supporting the best candidate by the group. The best answers satisfactory and in tune with the goals and objectives of the coalition will be the measuring stick for their support and endorsement of the candidate during the election.

Most of the members of the coalition group are U.S. citizens and registered voters in the CNMI. They also include many ethnic minorities and other nationalities with U.S. citizen children that are resident registered voters. Some of the ethnic children are also members of the U.S. Armed Forces that served and deployed in harm's way in foreign countries.

The coalition is inviting all concerned individuals, ethnic minorities, parents and family members of the U.S. children to attend the forum to show solidarity in this endeavor. ***(PR)***

Red flag up on Rota marina

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag at the West Harbor Marina on Rota after samples collected were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria.

The division said that samples collected from the marina contained concentrations of enterococci that exceeded the CNMI marine water quality standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

In order to adequately address public health concerns, DEQ has given the location a red flag and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of the site for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 12 locations on Rota. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

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2*4*14 Utility regular	$5.30	2*4*14 Utility treated	$7.70
2*4*16 Utility regular	$6.00	2*4*16 Utility treated	$8.70
2*4*18 Utility regular	$6.70	2*4*18 Utility treated	$9.70
2*4*20 Utility regular	$7.20	2*4*20 Utility treated	$10.70
2*6*12 Utility regular	$6.90	2*6*12 Utility treated	$10.20
2*6*14 Utility regular	$7.90	2*6*14 Utility treated	$12.20
2*6*16 Utility regular	$8.90	2*6*16 Utility treated	$14.20
2*6*18 Utility regular	$9.90	2*6*18 Utility treated	$15.20
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2*6*18 Dougalas regular	$12.90	2*6*20 Dougalas Treated	$18.90

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from Korea, better quality, long time no rusty

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BoG supports Make-A-Wish fundraiser

From left, Phil Santos, board chair, Make A Wish Foundation; Lou Leon Guerrero, president and board chair, Bank of Guam; Victor Camacho, executive director, Make A Wish Foundation; Jackie Marati, senior vice president/marketing administrator, Bank of Guam, and board member, Make A Wish Foundation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam is a Gold Sponsor for this Saturday's Make-A-Wish Foundation's annual Gala Fundraiser, featuring Guam native Dave Duenas and the San Francisco Guitar Quartet. Bank of Guam joins Platinum Sponsors Continental Airlines and Hyatt Regency as major sponsors for the yearly event.

Bank of Guam president and board chair Lou Leon Guerrero said, "Because of organizations like Make-A-Wish, our children are able to share in the magical experience of a Wish. In keeping with my father Jesus S. Leon Guerrero, and my brother Tony in their compassion and generosity, it is only fitting that the Bank of Guam continue to support the Foundation and its mission."

Make-A-Wish Foundation chair Phil Santos accepted the contribution on behalf of the Wish Children. "The Bank of Guam has always supported the Foundation through its generous sponsorship and caring volunteers. This donation reflects an appreciation for the impact of our mission, and we are grateful for the faith they have demonstrated in our ability to do good work. The vision of the Make-A-Wish Foundation is that people everywhere will share the power of a wish." ***(BoG)***

5.2 earthquake hits Alamagan Wednesday

An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.2 on the Richter scale hit the Alamagan Island in the Northern Mariana Islands Wednesday morning.

The earthquake occurred Oct. 8, at 10:48am, as reported by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The epicenter was located 95 km (60 miles) east-southeast of Pagan, 135 km (85 miles) southeast of Agrihan, 315 km (195 miles) north-northeast of Saipan, and 535 km (330 miles) north-northeast of Hagatña, Guam, with a depth of 25.9 km (16.1 miles).

There were no immediate reports of damage in the neighboring populated islands of Tinian and Saipan.

A powerful 7.1 earthquake occurred about 215 miles south-southeast of Guam last year. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

AGENCY: Commonwealth Development Authority
POSITION: Comptroller
PAYLEVEL/STEP: Ungraded
SALARY: $50,000 - $65,000
TERM: Two Years, renewable

CLOSING DATE: **Open Until Filled**

Position Summary: The position is an excepted service position and is responsible for directing the fiscal function of the organization in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and other regulatory and advisory organizations. The employee provides the Board of Directors with an independent and expert evaluation on financial issues, the fiscal health of the Authority; and recommends changes that will improve the quality of fiscal planning and management of CDA. The incumbent shall also perform other functions as the Executive Director and the Board may require. The position is an Officer of the Authority.

Qualification Requirements: Must hold a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in Accounting and a minimum of 5 years of professional experience in governmental or financial accounting; U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred but not required. Copy of degree/official transcript, police clearance, and professional certification must be attached to the application.

For more information, please contact Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer by e-mail at executive@cda.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 234-7145/6245.

Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at the CDA Office, Wakins Bldg., Gualo Rai or our website at www.cda.gov.mp.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Opening Date: October 3, 2008
Closing Date: October 31, 2008

Position: Receptionist

Salary: PL 18/01 – $13,052.98 to PL 18/05 ($15,870.10 P/A)
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 31, 2008, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than October 31, 2008, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
RFQ09-DOC-004

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2008 **TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

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COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFQ MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MICHAEL ADA, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE VIA E-MAIL TO depcommerce.ada@gmail.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, OCTOBER 29, 2008.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

JOSEPH B. SONGSONG and MARIA M. SONGSONG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 2, 1982, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation formerly known as Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 2, 1982, under Document No. 14220 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Sadog Tasi and hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 21899-2, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2086/81, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 12450, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1981.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on July 1, 2005. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on October 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $32,530.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than October 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than October 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $32,530.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

ERMIAS M. IGUEL and DIONICIA O. IGUEL (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 30, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 31, 1984, under File No. 84-1365 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property located in Chalan Kanoa and hereafter described:

Lot number 014 H 11, and containing an area of 360 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat number 014 H 00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 705, on the 1st day of March, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on May 18, 2006. Thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on October 15, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $24,130.00. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than October 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than October 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of $24,130.00 shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale. Failure to make payment within the 72-hour period will result in forfeiture of all said bidder's rights, title, and interest and the aforementioned property will automatically revert back to NMHC.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Kay Kay Rose
P.O. Box 504154
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 235-7920

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0571**
W. H. H. Minor Child,	
by	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
KAY KAY ROSE and WILLIAM ROSENBURGH, Petitioners.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on November 3, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 2nd day of October, 2008.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Anthony Odith R. Mendoza
P.O. Box 504712
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 287-8494

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF V.R.L.R. and S.R.L.R.	**FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0599**
Minor Child,	
by	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
ANTHONY ODITH R. MENDOZA, Petitioner.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 23, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 2nd day of October, 2008.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

OPEN DAILY
6:00AM
(MONDAY-SUNDAY)

Carmen Safeway SUPERMARKET

OCTOBER 10-12, 2008

STOCK UP SALE

Sapporo Ichiban Ramen

$7.99 /cs.

Del Monte Fruit Cocktail #10

$4.99 /ea.

Nestea Lemon Tea 36 qt

$7.99 /ea.

Morton Iodized Salt 26oz.

59¢ /ea.

Carnation Evaporated Milk 12oz.

99¢ /ea.

AJP Sugar 2 kg.

$1.69 /ea.

Chorizo Marca del Rey

$22.00 /ea.

Chicken Leg Quarter 22#

$19.99 /cs.

Chicken Leg Quarter 33#

$26.99 /cs.

Sunland Whole Chicken 30#

$33.99 /cs.

Seafood Mix 1#

$2.59 /pkg.

Dragon King Shrimp 21/25

$4.99 /box

THE LIQUOR SHOPPE

Tequila Pancho Villa 750 ml.

$15.26

Montego Bay Gold Rum 750 ml.

$15.60

Wild Turkey 750 ml.

$34.85

Santa Digna Chardonnay 750 ml.

$10.29

Gin Perez Barquero 1 lt. 1 Lr.	$14.27 /ea.
Demar's White Label 750 ml.	$15.97 /ea.
Santa Digna Sauvignon Blanc 750 ml.	$8.79 /ea.
Santa Digna Merlot 750 ml.	$10.29 /ea.
Santa Digna Cabernet 750 ml.	$10.29 /ea.

The Largest Selection of Fine Wine, Liquor & Beer

FROZEN

Corned Beef Brisket	$1.99 /lb.
Beef Tripe	$3.95 /lb.
Pork Hock Sliced	$1.69 /lb.
Smoke Ham Gusto	$1.89 /lb.
Pork Whole Leg Bone-In	$1.89 /lb.
Chicken Stewing	$1.99 /lb.
Chicken Wingettes 5# Bag	$9.99 /ea.
Tilapia	$1.25 /lb.

NON-FOOD

Charmin Toilet Tissue 24 Roll	$8.99 /ea.
Niagara Spray 15 oz.	$1.43 /ea.
Smoca Toothpaste Powdered Red	$1.99 /ea.

JAPAN FOOD

Sun Flower Mackerel 15 oz.	$1.60 /ea.
House Java Curry 220 g. Japan	$2.69 /ea.
House Vermont Mild 250 g. Japan	$2.69 /ea.
House Vermont Med 250 g. Japan	$2.69 /ea.
Takeya Miso Tokujyo 500 g.	$2.79 /ea.
Takeya Miso Tokujyo 1 kg.	$4.39 /ea.
Marukiyo Rice Crackers	$79.00 /can.

PRODUCE

Green Cabbage	89¢ /lb.
Potatoes	99¢ /lb.
Onions	65¢ /lb.
Carrots 1# Bag	95¢ /ea.
Green Bell Pepper	$1.29 /lb.

FREE WINE TASTING
WINE EXPERIENCE – FRIDAY 4:00PM – 6:00PM
SATURDAY 10:00AM – 12:00PM
Featuring Santa Digna Wine from Chile.

WIN! WEEKLY $25.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE
BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR OWN FABRIC SHOPPING BAG

WESTERN UNION SERVICE AVAILABLE

Tel. 234-6230 BEACH ROAD, CHALAN KANOA • STORE HOURS: Monday-Saturday 6:00am-9:00pm • Sunday 6:00am-7:00pm
*Limited Quantities and While Supplies Last! • We Reserve The Right to Limit Quantities • Foodstamp Shoppers Welcome • We are not responsible for typographical errors.

Island Snapshots

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is flanked by student participants of the KSKK Student Exchange Program on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008, at the Saipan Mayor's Office during a brief meeting before they leave Saipan for Tokyo, Japan, Oct. 9, 2008. From left, Jose C. Tenorio (chaperone), Ashley Babauta, Yong Park, Raymond Teregeyo Jr., Sharon Sanchez, Rose Marie Blas, staff; and Jemalyn Tenorio (chaperone).

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

LAPD DETECTIVES

Los Angeles Police Department detectives, from left, Timothy Marcia, Rick Jackson, Richard Bengtson, and Eri Poss, face the media during a press conference upon their arrival at the Saipan airport Tuesday night. The LAPD detectives are here to pick up Kazuyoshi Miura and escort him to California.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROTA CHECKPOINTS

The Rota Department of Public Safety conducts an insurance checkpoint on Oct. 3 in the village of Songsong, Rota, with the help of traffic officers and Division of Motor Vehicle staff from Saipan's Department of Public Safety.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Traffic officers conduct a car seat and seatbelt checkpoint in the village of Sinapalo, Rota on Oct. 4.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sgt. Paul Ogumoro, Traffic Section Commander of Saipan DPS, directs a vehicle for a car seat and seatbelt inspection in the village of Sinapalo, Rota on Oct. 4.

LILIA KING

HEAD START VISITORS

Members of the *man'amko* pose with students and teachers at the Garapan Head Start. The elderly visited the school Monday morning to teach the children different aspects of the local culture as part of celebrations for Culture Week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Garapan Head Start teacher Lilia King encourages her students to raise their hands during a short instruction time conducted by the visiting *man'amko*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY BOY

Happy birthday greetings go out to Thomas John Lizama Cruz, who's celebrating his 6th year birthday today, Oct. 11, 2008. Greetings come from Auntie Linda, Daisyanne, Peter and Uncle Dennis and most of all from Granma Mary and the Lizama family.

LILIA KING

Some of the *man'amko* teach the Garapan Head Start students how to make *mwars* during their visit to the school Monday morning.

LILIA KING

The *man'amko* took over the class of Lilia King and Merilyn Innocenti at the Garapan Head Start during their visit Monday morning. The children, ages 3 to 5, were taught Chamorro and Carolinian songs.

Red Cross donates 3 care kits

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Kennedy Benjamin, Health and Safety coordinator; Perry Tenorio, MVA managing director; Jerry Tan, MVA board chairman; Larry Lee, NMI Chapter board chairman; John Hirsh, NMI Chapter executive director; and Ed Johnson, Health and Safety instructor.

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter, through a grant from the Larry Hillblom Foundation, has donated three Emergency Care Kits to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

According to John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Chapter, each kit costs approximately $2,000.

The Care Kits are each equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator, an oxygen tank, and a First Aid kit, and will be placed at the three dive locations.

In addition to the kits, the NMI Chapter has trained more than 50 dive masters, instructors, tour guides and security guards in CPR, AED and oxygen administration at no cost.

Both MVA and the NMI Chapter have recognized that it can take some time for advanced medical care to arrive at these remote locations. In the event of a life threatening emergency such as a heart attack, when the first few minutes of care can decide whether a person lives or dies, these kits will increase the victim's chances of survival. Divers, tourist and other members of the community utilizing the dive sites can feel safer knowing that more members in the community are trained in life-saving skills and the lifesaving equipment needed is right there for them to use. ***(ARC)***

AYUDA NETWORK, INC.
An Alliance of Northern Marianas Human/Social Service Providers

"DOING THINGS BETTER TOGETHER"

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Ayuda Network, Inc., a non-profit organization, is looking for an energetic and dynamic individual to fill a full-time position of **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

Through the direct supervision of the President, Board of Directors, the Executive Director will be responsible for the day to day administration of the Ayuda Network, Inc., and assisting public/private agencies in the coordination of social/human services. The incumbent is responsible to secure and manage grants and other funding sources.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in a field related to Social Services with a minimum of two years experience in leadership positions working in social services or equivalent. Possess knowledge of computers and experience in database management and network administration. Experience in community organization preferred.

Applications and position description may be picked up at Ayuda Network, Inc. in Capitol Hill, Government Housing #1233 from 8:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. All applications shall accompanied by a cover letter, a resume, and a police clearance. Dateline for submission of applications will be no later than 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 24, 2008. For more information contact the Ayuda Network, Inc. at 322-7469.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 09-002

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Procurement of Janitorial Services for School Cafeterias**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-002" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **October 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-002, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P & S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-003

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **PSS Webmaster Services**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-003" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **October 28, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-003, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*

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/S/ **Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Juan D. Babauta**
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Business

Fed slashes interest rates, but stocks lose again

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Even an orchestrated round of rate cuts by the world's central banks was not enough to stem the bleeding on Wall Street.

The Federal Reserve, desperately trying to jump-start the lending that keeps the U.S. economy moving, on Wednesday dropped its closely watched federal funds rate to 1.5 percent. The cut from 2 percent took the rate to its lowest level in more than four years.

In an unprecedented coordinated move, central banks in England, China, Canada, Sweden and Switzerland and the European Central Bank also cut rates after a series of high-stakes phone calls over several days between Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his counterparts.

On Thursday, rates in South Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan were also trimmed and Asian markets appeared to find their feet after a brutal round of selling Wednesday.

AP

Traders Russel Boose, center, Richard Felman, left, and Michael Carusiello, far right, work in the Euro Dollar options trading pit Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008, at the CME Group in Chicago.

In Tokyo, the benchmark Nikkei 225 index ended morning trading up 1.25 percent, a day after it plummeted 9.4 percent in its biggest one-day drop in 21-years. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index gained 1.2 percent following the interest rate cut, while China's benchmark Shanghai Composite Index had gained 0.8 percent by late morning.

Wall Street stocks spent most of Wednesday afternoon in positive ground but succumbed to investor fears over the state of the economy in the session's waning minutes.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 189 points, or 2 percent, to close at 9,258. It was the sixth straight day of losses for the Dow. The index has shed more than a third of its value, nearly 5,000 points, since its all-time high, set one year ago Thursday.

The day's losses were lighter for the Nasdaq composite index and the Standard & Poor's 500.

The Fed acted in concert with the European Central Bank to make emergency interest rate cuts after the Sept. 11 terror attacks in 2001. But Wednesday's cuts were unprecedented with the number of nations that participated, the Fed said.

For millions of Americans, the Fed's cut means borrowing money becomes cheaper. Home equity loans, credit cards and other floating-rate loans all fluctuate depending on what the Fed does.

Asian markets rebound after rate cuts worldwide

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—Asian markets bounced back Thursday after central banks around the world slashed interest rates to ease the global credit crunch, although fears of further turmoil kept investors jittery.

South Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan lowered their interest rates, joining a series of cuts Wednesday in the U.S., Europe and China aimed at stabilizing global markets that have plunged sharply this week.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index was up 2.1 percent to 9,397, a day after it plummeted 9.4 percent in its biggest one-day drop since the 1987 market crash.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index jumped nearly 3 percent to 15,871 after the territory cut interest rates for a second day. And a surprise rate cut in South Korea also cheered investors, who lifted the Kospi index 1.8 percent.

Mainland China's main index was up 0.6 percent after its central bank lowered rates Wednesday evening.

China's move came as six other central banks, including the U.S. Federal Reserve and European Central Bank, joined to lower rates to contain the spreading financial crisis. Japan's central bank, constrained by already-low rates, said it backed the moves.

"Investors bought back shares as sentiment slightly improved on measures including coordinated rate cuts," said Kazuhiro Takahashi, general manager at Daiwa Securities SMBC Co. Ltd. in Tokyo.

First Hawaiian continues to be a strong and secure bank

First Hawaiian Bank continues to be a strong and secure bank, ranked in the top 5 percent of all U.S. banks in terms of credit ratings, earnings, and capital—its rating is AA-, and the highest rating of any local bank. Irs parent company, BNP Paribas, is one of the largest and most profitable banks in the world.

Their market capitalization as of June 30, 2008, was in excess of $55 billion and its long-term credit rating was one of the strongest in banking at AA+ from Standard & Poor's.

"We are also 'well capitalized' by federal regulators. The bank's capital ratio is one of the strongest in the U.S. The bank's net capital position as of June 30, 2008 was in excess of $2.5 billion. Our bank's credit policies avoided exposure to the sub-prime crisis and speculative real estate mortgage markets," according to a media release from FHB.

FHB has consistently been a conservative and prudent lender. Its lending practices have not changed nor does it foresee any changes to its underwriting standards.

"Through good times and bad times, we remain committed to operating as a relationship bank and servicing the needs of our business and personal customers to the best of our ability. We remain committed to our customers, employees, and the Guam and CNMI community," the media release added.

FHB said its depositors can rest assured that the bank is both safe and secure. ***(PR)***

BankPacific lowers prime rate to 4.5 percent

For the ninth time since September 2007, BankPacific has reduced its prime rate, this time to 4.5 percent, the lowest it has been since September 2004.

"The lower rate helps our communities. While the mainland economy is being battered, our region's outlook is strong. The reduction in the prime rate just made it even stronger," said BankPacific CEO Philip Flores.

BankPacific has been serving our region since 1954 and has a five-star rating from BauerFinancial Corporation and an "A" rating from lace financial corporation, both of which are the highest ratings available. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fed grants AIG $37.8 billion loan

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Federal Reserve on Wednesday agreed to provide insurance giant American International Group Inc. with a loan of up to $37.8 billion, on top of one made to the troubled company last month. Under the new program, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York will borrow up to $37.8 billion in investment-grade, fixed income securities from AIG in return for cash collateral. These securities were previously lent by AIG's insurance company subsidiaries to third parties. The arrangement will help AIG secure funds on an as-needed basis, the New York-based insurer said in a statement. As of Monday, about $37.2 billion of securities were available for loans under AIG's securities lending program.

Oil falls below $88 on US, Europe recession fears

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell below $88 a barrel Thursday in Asia on investor fears that crude demand will weaken as turmoil in the financial system pushes economies in the U.S. and Europe into recession. Light, sweet crude for November delivery was down $1.39 to $87.56 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract overnight fell $1.11 to settle at $88.95. The U.S. Federal Reserve, along with central banks in Europe and China cut interest rates Wednesday in a bid to jump-start lending. But markets in the U.S. and Europe sank on deepening fears about frozen lending markets and sluggish growth. The Dow Jones industrial average lost another 2 percent, and the index has shed more than a third of its value since its all-time high set one year ago Thursday.

Japan to mull new economic stimulus plan

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso, alarmed by an escalating global financial crisis, called for more action Thursday to bolster the country's faltering economy. Kosuke Hori, policy chief of Aso's Liberal Democratic Party, said that the prime minister asked ruling coalition leaders to consider crafting a new emergency package beyond the 2 trillion yen ($18 billion) economic stimulus plan proposed in late August. The current batch of measures, expected to gain parliamentary approval next week as part of an extra budget for this fiscal year, includes assistance to small businesses and other pump-priming measures to shore up Japan's economy. But it was introduced before a financial tsunami unhinged Wall Street last month, triggering a series of calamities in its wake: the collapse of Lehman Brothers, frozen credit markets, teetering European banks and growing prospects of a global recession.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,320.90 Down 67.20 (-1.53%)
HONG KONG	15,943.24 Down 511.51 (-3.31%)
JAKARTA	1,451.67 Down 168.05 (-10.38%)
TOKYO	9,157.49 Down 45.83 (-0.50%)
K. LUMPUR	974.24 Up 4.05 (-0.42%)
MANILA	2,288.44 Down 19.30 (-0.84%)
SINGAPORE	2,103.86 Up 70.25 (+3.45%)
SEOUL	1,294.89 Up 8.20 (+0.64%)
BANGKOK	495.59 Up 3.25 (+0.66%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	9,258.10 -2.00%
S&P	984.94 -11.29%
NASDAQ	1,740.33 -0.8%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.4159
British Pound	0.5773
Canadian Dollar	1.1203
Chinese Yuan	6.8243
Euro	0.7270
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7678
Indian Rupee	48.0450
Indonesian Rupiah	9,655.0000
Japanese Yen	101.3300
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4975
New Zealand Dollar	1.6106
Philippine Peso	47.2900
Singapore Dollar	1.4672
South Korean Won	1,394.4000
Swiss Franc	1.1253
Taiwan Dollar	32.4300
Thailand Baht	34.3350

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

McCain, Obama want increased health coverage

WASHINGTON (AP)—John McCain's health plan would reduce the ranks of the uninsured by about 21.1 million people if fully put in place by 2010, while Barack Obama's would reduce the number by 26.6 million, an analysis predicts.

Some previous reviews of the presidential candidates' health plans indicated that Republican McCain's proposals would amount to little more than a wash when it comes to the number of uninsured, now at about 45 million. But The Lewin Group, a consulting firm, drew a more optimistic scenario about the overall number of people who would get health coverage under the Republican nominee's plan.

McCain's plan was projected to cost more than $2 trillion from 2010 through 2019, while Obama's would cost $1.17 trillion, according to the analysis released Wednesday. Neither candidate provides specifics on how to cover the total.

McCain has proposed a tax credit of $2,500 for individuals or $5,000 for a family that buys health insurance. The credit would replace the tax break people now get for obtaining health coverage through their work. He also wants to let people shop across state lines when buying insurance; that would bypass states where insurance is more expensive and comprehensive.

The Lewin Group agreed that many workers would lose their employer-sponsored health coverage under McCain's plan. That is because some companies would discontinue coverage if most workers could use the tax credit to get coverage elsewhere. In all, about 16 million would lose coverage, the firm said.

Some businesses would begin offering health insurance for the first time, partially offsetting those losses. In particular, companies with younger workers would benefit from McCain's proposal to let them shop in other states, said John Sheils, the firm's senior vice president. They would find that lower premiums made it possible to offer a health insurance benefit.

AP

Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is joined by Republican vice presidential candidate, Sarah Palin, R-Alaska, left, his wife, Cindy, right and daughter, Meghan for a rally Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008 in Strongville, Ohio.

'Voter purges may violate law'

NEW YORK (AP)—Tens of thousands of eligible voters have been removed from rolls or blocked from registering in at least six swing states, and the voters' exclusion appears to violate federal law, according to a published report.

The New York Times based its findings on reviews of state records and Social Security data.

The Times said voters appear to have been purged by mistake and not because of any intentional violations by election officials or coordinated efforts by any party.

States have been trying to follow the Help America Vote Act of 2002 by removing the names of voters who should no longer be listed. But for every voter added to the rolls in the past two months in some states, election officials have removed two, a review of the records shows.

The newspaper said it identified apparent problems in Colorado, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Nevada and North Carolina. It says some states are improperly using Social Security data to verify new voters' registration applications, and others may have broken rules that govern removing voters from the rolls within 90 days of a federal election.

Democrats have been more aggressive at registering new voters this year, according to state election officials, so any closer screening of new applications may affect their party's supporters disproportionately, the Times said.

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Asia

10K Chinese children still sick from milk

BEIJING (AP)—More than 10,000 children remained hospitalized after being sickened in China's tainted milk scandal, eight of whom were in serious condition, officials said.

The Health Ministry said in a statement on its Web site Wednesday that 10,666 children were in hospitals after drinking milk powder contaminated with the industrial chemical melamine, which can lead to kidney stones and possibly life-threatening kidney failure.

No new deaths have been recorded, it said. The scandal has so far been blamed for the deaths of four babies and the sickening of more than 54,000 others.

But the effects of the scandal continue to be felt, forcing the government to deal with festering health and public relations issues. China's food exports have increasingly suffered, with more nations issuing import bans.

Philippine Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said at a meeting of health ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Manila that member nations should strengthen regulations to shield people from potentially harmful imports.

Dairy suppliers have been accused of adding melamine—used in products including plastics, paint and adhesives—to watered-down milk to make the product appear rich in protein and fool quality control tests.

There had been no standards for the amount of the chemical allowed in food products.

Under Health Ministry guidelines released Wednesday, melamine is now limited to one part per million for infant formula and 2.5 parts per million for liquid milk, milk powder and food products that contain more than 15 percent milk.

Wang Xuening, a ministry official, acknowledged that small amounts of melamine can leech from the environment and packaging into milk and other foods, but said deliberate tainting was forbidden.

Levels of melamine discovered in batches of milk powder recently registered as much as 6,196 parts per million.

In the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration says its experts have concluded that eating 2.5 parts per million of melamine—a minuscule amount—would not raise health risks, even if a person ate food every day that contained it.

NATO mulls expanding its drug role in Afghanistan

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)—The United States on Thursday will push NATO allies to order their troops to target Afghanistan's thriving heroin trade in a bid to stem the flow of drug money to the widening insurgency against the troubled international military mission.

A two-day meeting of NATO defense ministers comes amid an increase in violence that has created doubts about whether Western forces can win the war against the resurgent Taliban militants.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates will seek more troops, equipment, funding and other contributions to the Afghan war from the allies.

The U.S. plans to beef up its own troop strength with an extra Army brigade early next year and as many as three additional brigades in the following months. The increases reflect concerns that Afghanistan is becoming the key battlefield in the fight against international terrorism.

NATO's top commander believes cutting the estimated $100 million that the Taliban and their al-Qaida allies receive each year from Afghanistan's heroin industry is one way to hit back.

"The money from the narcotics trade is feeding the insurgency, it buy weapons and it pays fighters," U.S. Gen. John Craddock. "It is a cancer that fuels the insurgency."

The Afghan police are too weak to tackle the problem and it's time for the 50,000-strong alliance force to take on the drug runners, he said.

"NATO must step up to this task," Craddock told defense experts in Brussels this week. "I've asked for expanded authority from NATO ... to target laboratories and trafficking facilities."

The U.S. and several European allies support him, but others have doubts. Although Craddock said he won't target poor farmers who depend on opium poppies for a living, Germany, Italy and Spain worry a counter-narcotics campaign could lead to a backlash against international troops.

Those countries also fear widening the mission could overstretch the hard-pressed troops. They believe that taking the task away from the Afghans is a step backward in the goal to hand over security to local forces.

Craddock's supporters hope talks between the NATO ministers and their Afghan counterpart Gen. Abdul Rahim Wardak in Budapest could overcome doubts.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police: Blast in Pakistan's capital wounds 9

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—An explosives-laden vehicle rammed an anti-terrorist squad building Thursday in a part of Islamabad that houses several police facilities, wounding at least nine people, officials said. The bombing took place as lawmakers gathered at Parliament for a briefing on the security situation in Pakistan, a U.S. ally in the war on terror that is besieged by militancy. "It seems to be a suicide attack," said Islamabad police offical Mohammed Sadiq, who confirmed the casualty toll. The capital has been under tight security because of the briefing and it was unclear how the attacker might have struck the building in the Police Lines neighborhood of Islamabad. Ambulances streamed into the smoke-filled area. The red-brick building's facade was destroyed and a staircase had collapsed. Shoes were flung among the rubble.

Thai protest leaders say they will surrender

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—The leaders of Thailand's anti-government protesters said Thursday they will surrender to police after a court dropped treason charges against them, but vowed to continue their sit-in at the prime minister's office after posting bail. Sondhi Limthongkul said he and other leaders of the People's Alliance for Democracy would report to police and apply for bail as early as Thursday afternoon. Arrest warrants were issued for the alliance's nine leaders Aug. 27, the day after they led thousands of protesters into the main government office complex, Government House, where they have been camped ever since to demand electoral changes and an end to corruption in Thai politics. The Appeals Court on Thursday revoked three of the five charges on the warrant: treason, stockpiling of weapons and refusing to disperse. The court said it would issue new warrants with the remaining two charges of inciting public disturbance and illegal assembly—which carry prison terms of seven and three years, respectively.

World

Scientists win Nobel for green jellyfish protein

By MALCOLM RITTER
AP SCIENCE WRITER

Three U.S.-based scientists won a Nobel Prize on Wednesday for turning a glowing green protein from jellyfish into a revolutionary way to watch the tiniest details of life within cells and living creatures.

Osamu Shimomura, a Japanese citizen who works in the United States, and Americans Martin Chalfie and Roger Tsien shared the chemistry prize for discovering and developing green fluorescent protein, or GFP.

When exposed to ultraviolet light, the protein glows green. It can act as a marker on otherwise invisible proteins within cells to trace them as they go about their business. It can tag individual cells in tissue. And it can show when and where particular genes turn on and off.

Researchers worldwide now use GFP to track development of brain cells, the growth of tumors and the spread of cancer cells. It has let them study nerve cell damage from Alzheimer's disease and see how insulin-producing beta cells arise in the pancreas of a growing embryo, for example.

In awarding the prize, the Royal Swedish Academy compared the impact of GFP on science to the invention of the microscope. For the past decade, the academy said, the protein has been "a guiding star " for scientists.

GFP's chemical cousins produce other colors, which let scientists follow multiple cells or proteins simultaneously.

"This is a technology that has literally transformed medical research," said Dr. John Frangioni, an associate professor of medicine and radiology at Harvard Medical School.

AP

This photo provided by Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Graduate Program in Neuroscience and the Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences of Cornell University shows tissues of a mouse embryo labeled with a green fluorescent protein and a red fluorescent protein.

US: 2 American journalists missing in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Two American journalists vacationing in Lebanon have not been heard from since Oct. 1 and are believed missing, the U.S. Embassy said Wednesday, appealing for information on their possible whereabouts.

The two, Holli Chmela, 27, and Taylor Luck, 23, have been working for the Jordan Times and had been expected back in Amman on Saturday, the Amman-based paper's chief editor told The Associated Press.

The embassy said the two reportedly left Beirut for the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli, a predominantly Sunni Muslim city where militants and Islamic fundamentalists are known to be active. There have been sectarian fighting and bombings in recent months.

Earlier this week, the embassy issued a statement warning its citizens about potential violent actions targeting Americans in Lebanon and calling on them to be more watchful. It said the threats were particularly high in the first half of October.

Chmela and Luck arrived in Lebanon on Sept. 29 from the Jordanian capital of Amman on vacation. They told a friend on Oct. 1 that they were traveling from Beirut to Tripoli through the coastal town of Byblos that day, an embassy statement said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Norbert becomes Category 4 hurricane in Pacific

CIUDAD OBREGON, Mexico (AP)—Hurricane Norbert strengthened Wednesday into an extremely powerful Category 4 storm off Mexico's Pacific coast and was on track to hit the southern Baja California peninsula over the weekend. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Norbert will likely turn toward the northeast over the next two days en route to the Baja peninsula and Mexican mainland. Officials across the region were setting up shelters and preparing for possible evacuations from low-lying regions. In Ciudad Obregon, across the Sea of Cortez from Baja California, farmers were rushing to finish fertilizing their fields before the hurricane hit. At the Fiesta Inn hotel, workers were sealing wood decks to prepare for the heavy rains. The storm had maximum sustained winds near 135 mph and was moving west-northwest at near 9 mph late Wednesday, the hurricane center said. It was expected to reach a relatively unpopulated stretch of coast well north of Cabo San Lucas before dawn Saturday. Norbert was centered about 420 miles south of the southern tip Baja California on Wednesday night.

Congo accuses Rwanda troops of crossing border

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Congo has accused neighboring Rwanda of sending troops across the border and fighting in support of a Congolese warlord. A Rwandan military spokesman denies the allegations. North Kivu provincial Gov. Julien Mpaluku says Rwandan soldiers backing Congo warlord Laurent Nkunda crossed into Congo three days ago and headed for the frontier villages of Tshanzu and Bunagana. He said Wednesday that Rwandan troops were fighting in Rumangabo, a small village north of the regional capital, Goma. Rwandan military spokesman Maj. Gill Rutaremara denies Rwandan soldiers were in Congo.

Off the Wall

Lie detectors proposed for Ind. congressional debate

JASPER, Ind. (AP)—Two challengers for an Indiana congressional seat have agreed to be hooked up to lie detectors during a debate, but an official with the incumbent's party dismisses the idea as "bizarre."

Ninth District Republican Party Chairman Larry Shickles on Wednesday proposed the political polygraphs for Democratic Rep. Baron Hill, GOP challenger Mike Sodrel and Libertarian candidate Eric Schansberg. The three are scheduled to debate Oct. 21, but an official with a debate co-sponsor said lie detectors won't be included.

"Our planning committee worked up the format and rules, and we are not inviting negotiations from the candidates," Alan Johnson, dean of Vincennes University's Jasper Campus, told The Herald of Jasper.

Shickles, in a letter sent Tuesday to 9th District Democratic Chairman Mike Jones, suggested that the candidates be hooked up to lie detecting machines at the Oct. 21 event or a separate debate.

"While this format may be unusual, I feel strongly that voters need to be able to make a clear decision without all the usual spin," Shickles wrote.

Sodrel's campaign said he would agree to the proposal, and Schansberg said he also would agree to wear a lie detector. Hill declined to comment.

Jones said having a lie detector debate "just seems pretty bizarre."

"Polygraphs have their use in law enforcement, but I don't see them fitting in a political debate," Jones said. "There are plenty of avenues for finding out each candidate's true position. The votes of both Baron Hill and Mike Sodrel are on record with Congress."

The race pits Hill and Sodrel against each other for the fourth time. Sodrel unseated Hill in 2004, but Hill won the seat back in 2006.

'Crucible' instructor accused of witchcraft

FERNDALE, Mich. (AP)—A man assigned "The Crucible" in an adult education English class doused his teacher with a nonflammable liquid and threatened to burn her as a witch, police said.

Darin Najor, 20, ran from the classroom after the attack Sept. 11 and was sent for psychiatric evaluation after telling police "he was trying to kill the witch by pouring holy water over her head," Detective Ken Denmark said.

He was arrested Monday and scheduled for arraignment this month on misdemeanor charges of assault and battery.

The day before the dousing, Najor had asked the teacher whether she believed in witchcraft, police said. She told him she did not, calling Arthur Miller's play based on the 1692 Salem witch trials a metaphor for unjust persecution.

"The suspect threw his homework papers on the floor and declared it was all blasphemy," Denmark said. "The next day he came up behind her chanting what sounded like religious verses while she was working at her desk."

Court officials had no indication Najor had an attorney, and The Associated Press could not find a telephone number for him.

Police did not identify the teacher.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man's 'Viva Viagra' missile misfires in NYC court

NEW YORK (AP)—A court says a man's escapade in New York with a decommissioned missile emblazoned with "Viva Viagra" is a dud. A federal judge ruled Wednesday that Arye Sachs' antics infringe on a trademark held by Pfizer Inc. Sachs was ordered to stop displaying anything with Viagra logos. He towed the 25-foot rocket last month to various spots in Manhattan, including Pfizer's headquarters. His plan was to invoke Viagra while distributing politically themed condoms. The judge worried people would mistake the missile for a Pfizer-approved ad.

Burned! Washington state woman shot by stove

SEKIU, Wash. (AP)—A woman in Washington state says her cast-iron stove shot her in the leg. Cory Davis tells the Peninsula Daily News that she had just stoked the heating stove in her home Sunday when she heard a loud bang and was struck in her left calf. She says she initially thought "that was one fast hot coal flying at me." In fact, she was hit by part of a 22-gauge shotgun shell that she had accidentally put into the stove with newspapers she used to light it. A box of shells had spilled nearby a few weeks before. Davis says she removed the metal fragment herself Sunday and sought treatment for the shallow wound the next day.

Skinny-dipping tailgater accused of kneeing cop

AMHERST, Mass. (AP)—A tailgater skinny dipping inside a truck bed at a University of Massachusetts football game has been charged with assault for allegedly kneeing a campus police officer in the groin. Deputy Chief Patrick Archbald said a 21-year-old man was among several fans splashing around in the back of a pickup truck before Saturday's game against the University of Delaware. When police told them to stop, the man refused to get out. He then approached an officer and kneed him twice in the groin, Archbald said. The officer, whom Archbald did not name, was given morphine at a hospital. He could miss up to two weeks of work. The man was charged with assault and battery on a police officer, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

Man allegedly tries to steal bike in front of cop

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—A Fargo man has been arrested for stealing a bike - right in front of a police officer. Authorities said an officer was filling out a report in his patrol car when he looked up and saw 25-year-old man pull a bike from a bike rack and get ready to pedal away. The bike rack was on the side of the police station. The man said the bike was his, but authorities said the bike was placed there in safe-keeping for a man who was being detoxified.

Woman loses long battle against speeding ticket

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP)—Some people will do anything to get out of paying a speeding ticket. Christine Downs of Dover, 24, interrogated police and filed motions as she represented herself at trial last year to contest the $100 ticket. She also prepared a list of 96 questions. She lost, but decided to appeal to the state Supreme Court. She argued that police failed to respond to her request for engineering studies used to calculate the speed limit on the road where she was ticketed in May 2007 for driving 44 in a 25 mph zone.

Science & Technology

BlackBerry Storm has touch screen you can feel

NEW YORK (AP)—Research in Motion Ltd., maker of the BlackBerry, is taking on Apple Inc. with a touch-screen phone that puts a new twist on the technology.

RIM is known for its e-mail-oriented phones with large keypads. With the new model announced Wednesday, the Storm, RIM is for the first time giving up the physical keypad in favor of a large screen, just like the one on Apple's iPhone.

But RIM has listened to users who find the iPhone's glass screen awkward to type on because its virtual buttons provide no tactile feedback. The Storm's whole screen is backed by springs, and when pressed, it gives under the finger.

The long-rumored Storm will be available from Verizon Wireless in the U.S. and from Vodafone Group PLC overseas before the holidays, the companies said. No price has been disclosed yet.

In an unusual twist, the phone will work both on Verizon Wireless' network and on Vodafone's, even though they use incompatible technologies. Like a few other Verizon Wireless handsets before it, the Storm will be equipped with radios to handle both networks, making international roaming a possibility. The iPhone, carried by AT&T Inc. in the U.S., can already roam internationally.

The addition of a touch-screen phone to the BlackBerry lineup, the mainstay of e-mail-addicted executives and managers, is a testament to the effect of the iPhone. RIM's share of the U.S. smart-phone market has stayed above 50 percent, but the iPhone has clearly helped expand that market.

Over the last year, technology buyers at large corporations have found their employees demanding a touch-screen phone, said Mike Lanman, chief marketing officer of Verizon Wireless.

"Everybody eventually leaves work ... and becomes a person," Lanman said.

The iPhone's facility with Web browsing and movie playing are big reasons for its appeal. The Storm will initially lack an equivalent of Apple's iTunes movie store, though shorter clips will be available through Verizon Wireless' VCast service.

As a Web browser, the Storm more closely emulates the desktop experience than the iPhone does. That's because the screen can distinguish between light touches and firm presses. A light touch can move around a cursor, while a firm press activates a link, much like moving a mouse cursor has a different effect from clicking a mouse button, said Mike Lazaridis, RIM's co-chief executive.

This photo provided by Research in Motion Ltd., shows the company's new touch-screen phone, the Storm. AP

NYC National Debt Clock runs out of digits

NEW YORK (AP)—In a sign of the times, the National Debt Clock in New York City has run out of digits to record the growing figure.

As a short-term fix, the digital dollar sign on the billboard-style clock near Times Square has been switched to a figure—the "1" in $10 trillion. It's marking the federal government's current debt at about $10.2 trillion.

The Durst Organization says it plans to update the sign next year by adding two digits. That will make it capable of tracking debt up to a quadrillion dollars.

The late Manhattan real estate developer Seymour Durst put the sign up in 1989 to call attention to what was then a $2.7 trillion debt.

Bogus YouTube pages used to spread viruses

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Savvy Internet users know that downloading unsolicited computer programs is one of the most dangerous things you can do online. It puts you at great risk for a virus or another time bomb from a hacker.

But even some sophisticated surfers could get taken in by a sneaky new attack in which criminals create fake YouTube pages—dead-on replicas of the real site—to push their malicious software and make it look like it's safe stuff coming from a trusted source.

A program circulating online helps hackers build those fake pages. Users who follow an e-mail pointing them to one of the pages would see an error message that claims the video they want won't play without installing new software first. That error message includes a link the hacker has provided to a malicious program, which delivers a virus.

Even worse: once the computer is infected, it's simple for the hacker to silently redirect the victims to a real YouTube page to see videos they were hoping to see—and hide the crime.

"It's spot-on accurate, and that is scary," said Jamz Yaneza, threat research manager for security software company Trend Micro Inc. "If I were watching YouTube videos all day I would probably click on this one."

The tactic itself isn't new: There's a constant push by criminals to build more convincing spoofs of legitimate sites to trick people into downloading harmful software. And the latest attacks don't target any vulnerability in the YouTube site.

But it highlights the fact that criminals are getting better at creating bogus sites and developing so-called "social engineering" methods to fool people.

Fortunately, truly alert Internet users can still see the telltale warning signs with the fake YouTube pages. For one, the Web browser won't show the real YouTube's Internet address. And to even see the malicious page, you have to first follow a link that's sent to you, which is often a tip-off that you should independently verify whether the site is legitimate.

Life & Style

A Fey-Palin comedy summit? Stay tuned

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—It seems like the inevitable comedic summit of this fall's presidential campaign: the real Sarah Palin coming on "Saturday Night Live" to meet her look-alike impersonator, Tina Fey.

"All in good time," said a cagey Lorne Michaels, longtime executive producer of NBC's "Saturday Night Live," which has been rejuvenated this fall by Fey's three skits as the Republican vice presidential candidate.

Michaels said on Wednesday he wasn't actively seeking Palin, but that the McCain campaign called after the first skit, when Fey's Palin appeared with Amy Poehler's Hillary Clinton on the show's Sept. 13 season premiere, to say they enjoyed it.

"Saturday Night Live" has a long history of political walk-ons. Michaels prefers keeping this sort of news a surprise until it happens, an opinion reinforced when word leaked that Barack Obama would be on that same show and the Democratic presidential candidate had to cancel at the last minute. "I think we looked stupid," he said.

There are three more first-run "Saturday Night Live" episodes before the election. Starting Thursday, NBC is also airing three prime-time editions of the show at 9:30 p.m. EDT.

Palin told reporters on Tuesday she'd love to appear on the show with Fey.

"I love her, she's a hoot and she's so talented," Palin said. "It would be fun to meet her, imitate her and keep on giving her new material."

Palin

Fey

From the moment Palin was selected as John McCain's running mate, Michaels said he barely had time to consider the idea of Fey impersonating her. Others did it for him.

"The next day the doorman in my building said, `What a gift, you're going to have so much fun with Tina Fey,'" he said.

Fey needed some convincing, primarily because she was busy with her Emmy Award-winning role as harried late-night show producer on "30 Rock." The day of "SNL's" season premiere, she was shooting an episode of "30 Rock" with Oprah Winfrey as guest.

"There are certainly people here who could have played her and played her well," Michaels said. "But the audience would have been disappointed if it had not been Tina. They cast her."

During that first impersonation, Fey got laughs simply by nailing Palin's accent. She described global warming as "just God hugging us closer."

Michaels knew he wanted Fey back for the Oct. 4 show, two days after the vice presidential debate. But Palin's interview with CBS' Katie Couric was so priceless, they had to write a sketch around that, he said.

In one answer to a question by Couric, played by Poehler, Fey gives a circular response of campaign cliches that reaches a dead end. Asked for specifics on how a McCain administration would spread democracy, Fey's Palin said, "Katie, I'd like to use one of my lifelines."

Through the first three weeks of the season, "Saturday Night Live" has averaged 8.3 million viewers, or 49 percent more than last year, according to Nielsen Media Research. The skits have also drawn tremendous Web traffic, with 9.3 million people watching an online clip of the "Clinton-Palin" segment. The "Couric interview" has been seen by nearly 7 million people, NBC said.

"She's made `Saturday Night Live' look, for the first time in a long time, like it's playing in the same satire league as Comedy Central, said Robert Thompson, director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University.

Fey has been off "Saturday Night Live" for two years, but was the guest host last winter in the first show back from the writers strike, where she made a vivid defense of Hillary Clinton.

"With all her years on `Weekend Update' and even more as Liz Lemon on `30 Rock,' she's become someone the audience trusts," Michaels said. "She's credible. And I think none of that would have mattered if her take on Sarah Palin hadn't been fresh and funny."

While the comic impersonation is tough, Fey's character is likable, much like Will Ferrell was in his days talking about "strategery" as George W. Bush, he said.

Richard Greene, a public speaking coach and author of "Words That Shook the World: 100 Years of Unforgettable Speeches and Events," said if he were a Democratic official, he'd be pulling any favor he could to keep Palin off "Saturday Night Live."

"She is so charming and so media savvy," Greene said. "When she has a script, she will completely seduce America."

Hefner opens up about Holly Madison breakup

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hugh Hefner is down a girlfriend. Hefner and Holly Madison, one of E!'s "The Girls Next Door," are no longer dating. Hefner said he's been "down in the dumps" about the split.

The 28-year-old model-actress stars in the reality series with Kendra Wilkinson and Bridget Marquardt as one of the 82-year-old publisher's girlfriends who live with Hefner in the Playboy Mansion.

"If Holly says it's over, I guess it's over," Hefner said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "She's still here in the house. Until a few days ago, we were still sharing the same bed."

Hefner was surprised to hear Madison discussing their breakup, but acknowledged he knew a split was imminent after he told Madison that they would never wed or have children.

In a video posted on TMZ.com Tuesday, Madison said she's no longer with Hefner. She also said she is "still filming stuff together" with Wilkinson and Marquardt.

Hefner said Madison learned the pair would never have children or get married six months ago, adding: "The fact that she was depressed after that, I didn't know at all. That was a revelation in the last days and weeks. Quite frankly, we thought when the time came, we would make a combined statement and we expected that combined statement would be somewhere in the weeks and months ahead."

AP

In this Sept. 24, 2008 file photo, Holly Madison, left, and Hugh Hefner arrive at the Fox Reality Channel Really Awards in Los Angeles.

"The Girls Next Door" premiered on E! in 2001 and is in its fifth season. Hefner said he and the three women are committed to a sixth season, but he plans to seek out new live-in lovers. Hefner said 19-year-old Playmate twins Karissa and Kristina Shannon are living in the mansion, but they're aren't his girlfriends - yet.

"It's now apparent there will be some new faces in my personal life and on the show," he said. "There's been moments that I've been down in the dumps about all this, and (personal assistant) Mary (O'Connor) told me to cheer up and pointed out that there are girls lined up outside the front gate. At my age, that's hard to believe, but it seems to be true."

BEST SELLERS

(c) 2008 Los Angeles Times

Nonfiction

1. ***Hot, Flat, and Crowded***, by Thomas L. Friedman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux: $27.95) Solutions to overpopulation and the global warming crisis.
2. ***The Last Lecture***, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: $21.95) Terminal cancer inspires a call to seize life's moments.
3. ***The War Within,*** by Bob Woodward, (Simon & Schuster: $32) The dangers of unwarranted secrecy during the Iraq war.
4. ***Breakthrough***, by Suzanne Somers (Crown: $25.95) Advice on the newest treatments for longevity and healthy living.
5. ***When You Are Engulfed in Flames,*** by David Sedaris, (Little, Brown: $25.99) Musings on life.
6. ***Mother on Fire***, by Sandra Tsing Loh (Crown: $23) The state of schools, society and parenting in dysfunctional Los Angeles.
7. ***The Secret***, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95) Life's secrets, distilled.
8. ***Bad Money***, by Kevin Phillips (Viking: $25.95) How debt, shaky financial markets and misguided policies are damaging the nation.
9. ***The 4-Hour Workweek***, by Timothy Ferriss (Crown: $19.95) Living life on your own terms.
10. ***Goodnight Bush***, by Erich Origen and Gan Golan (Little, Brown: $14.99) A parody of the children's classic Goodnight Moon.

Fiction

1. ***The Story of Edgar Sawtelle***, by David Wroblewski (Ecco: $25.95) A mute dog breeder is banished by his uncle a la Hamlet.
2. ***The Other Queen***, by Philippa Gregory (Touchstone: $25.95) The years in captivity of Mary, Queen of Scots.
3. ***Eclipse***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99) Bella must choose between her lover and a friend.
4. ***Breaking Dawn***, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $22.99) The final book in the Twilight saga finds Bella choosing immortality.
5. ***Anathem***, by Neal Stephenson (William Morrow: $29.95) A world in crisis unites a scholarly community with a secular society.
6. ***Brisingr***, by Christopher Paolini (Knopf : $27.50) Eragon and his dragon Saphira must unite the rebel forces to defeat King Galbatorix.
7. ***Indignation***, by Philip Roth (Houghton Mifflin: $26) The son of a kosher butcher from New Jersey experiences college life in the early 1950s.
8. ***American Wife***, by Curtis Sittenfeld (Random House: $26) A first lady loosely based on Laura Bush.
9. ***The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo***, by Stieg Larsson (Knopf : $24.95) A journalist explores the cold-case disappearance of a teen heiress.
10. ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society***, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Dial Press: $22) A writer corresponds with islanders after German occupation.

Hilton continues online presidential campaign

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Watch out world: Paris Hilton is continuing her bid for the White House.

The paparazzi darling and reality TV star touted her candidacy in a video on FunnyOrDie.com Wednesday—her second appearance in a political spoof on the site.

"Running for fake president is a little daunting," a heavily made-up Hilton tells Martin Sheen, whom she calls "one of our greatest fake presidents."

"Being a fake president is a lot harder today than it was when I was a fake president," says Sheen, who has often played American presidents, most notably on TV's "The West Wing."

Hilton talks with Sheen about "Fo Po"—"Foreign policy, silly"—and shares what could be her real views on the economy and the war in Iraq.

"Iraq has a Democratic government that is asking for us to leave," she says. "It seems that we've done our job and we should bring our troops home safely."

Economically, "this is the biggest depression since `The Notebook,'" Hilton says, adding that the government should "lower inflated interest rates so it's not impossible for (people) to pay their mortgage."

As Sheen tells Hilton she's "going to make a great fake president," his son, Charlie Sheen, pops in with a promise to "fake vote" for her.

Hilton bids the elder Sheen farewell with a kitten-voiced, "Bye, sexy," then tells the camera: "See you at the fake inauguration."

The 27-year-old heiress said in a statement that she hopes the video inspires people to consider the issues and vote in the real presidential election.

"I hope that my political opponents take in consideration the points that I have addressed because I feel that they are important and, as well as, that my generation and the new young voters should become more involved with our current issues and speak their voice through voting," Hilton said. "This is the most important presidential election in decades and voting is the only way that you have a voice for change."

AP

In this Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2008 file photo, Paris Hilton arrives at the launch party of new MTV series "Paris Hilton's My New BFF" in Los Angeles.

'Opus' creator to retire from drawing comic strips

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Berkeley Breathed is retiring, leaving a hole in Sunday comics pages after nearly 30 years because he wants to save his strip's main character, Opus, from being dragged down in the current political climate.

The last strip of "Opus," the beloved, large-beaked penguin, will run in about 200 newspapers nationwide Nov. 2.

Amy Lago, comics editor of The Washington Post Writers Group, said Breathed will pursue other interests, such as writing books and screenplays.

Starting and stopping popular strips is old hat for the 51-year-old, who lives in Santa Barbara, Calif., and has a children's book, "Pete & Pickles," due out next week.

The writers group unveiled his "Bloom County" strip in 1980; he went on to win the Pulitzer for editorial cartooning in 1987. He ended that strip in 1989 and the same year began the Sunday-only strip "Outland," which he quit in 1995. In 2003, he launched "Opus."

Breathed describes his creative combination as part outspoken filmmaker Michael Moore, part gentle "Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz.

"It isn't a comfortable creative combination but it's probably what gave my cartoons whatever distinction they had for 30 years," he wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

His comics have long lampooned current events, such as the "Star Wars" space defense initiative in the 1980s and the supposedly corruptive influence of heavy metal music. In recent strips, Opus has reflected on his life after being detained by U.S. Homeland Security.

This time, Breathed says, the ending is really for good, if not his own. Breathed believes the tone of America's public and political discourse is headed in a dark direction, with the next president—whoever is elected—facing problems that will "belie palatable solutions." Inevitably, he said that would color his art.

"I'm destroying the village to save it. In this case, a penguin," Breathed wrote. "...We are about to enter a rather wicked period in our National Discourse ... bad enough to make what we're in right now seem folksy and genteel. The ranting side of my cartooning impulse will destroy the thing that makes Opus comfortable for his readers. And me."

"A mad penguin, like a mad cartoonist, isn't very lovable. I like him the way he is now," he wrote.

This Sunday's strip will include a contest in which Breathed asks readers to guess the penguin's fate. Details on how to participate are not being released ahead of time. The answer will appear online after the last "Opus" runs next month, Lago said.

AP

In this photo illustration provided Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008 by cartoonist Berkeley Breathed, the main character from his comic strip, Opus, reads a newspaper with a 2008 photo of Breathed.

The words, "Thank You" and "Si Yu'us Ma'ase" are not enough to express our heartfelt appreciation to our many relatives and friends who conveyed kind words of sympathy, generosity, and comforting us with love as we mourn the sudden passing of our beloved father, grandfather and brother

JUAN MANIBUSAN DIAZ

Your presence at the daily masses of intention, nightly rosaries in Saipan and Las Vegas, Nevada, and most especially at the Celebration of His New Life has deeply touched our hearts and assures us of how much he was loved.

Although our beloved is now at peace, his spirit and fond memories are alive within each of us and will never be forgotten. Your kindness and love will forever be treasured in our hearts and we ask the Almighty God to BLESS US ALL.

UN DANGKULU NA SI YU'US MA'ASE YA SI YU'US HU BENDISE HIT TODOS.

The Children, Brothers, Sisters and Family of the late JUAN MANIBUSAN DIAZ

First Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of Our Dearly Beloved

†*Lorpina Profeta Bundoc*

we invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate her first death anniversary.

Daily Mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m., starting Friday, Oct. 03 thru Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, in San Vicente Church.

On the final day, Saturday, October 11, 2008, the anniversary Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church. Appreciation dinner immediately follows at the San Vicente Church Social Hall.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence will be forever appreciated.

Tomas S.P. Bundoc and Family

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: On the TV program "Law & Order," Sam Waterston parts his hair on the left. However, for his TD Ameritrade commercials, his hair is parted on the right. Can you explain?—Andy B., North Miami, Fla.

A: Would you believe a lot of people ask me this question? So I searched high and low for the answer. According to Sam himself, the answer is surprisingly simple: "I part my hair in real life the way I do in my commercials -- on the right. When I took the role (of Jack McCoy), I decided to part it on the left side as one step in the process of creating the McCoy character."

■ ■ ■

Q: Does A&E plan to do any more of C.S. Forester's "Hornblower" saga? And, if made, will Ioan Gruffudd still play "Hornblower"? I have read the saga several times in the past 40 years, and his portrayal seems right on the character as conceived.—Bill W., Fort Myers, Fla.

A: Due to budget constraints, A&E canceled the "Hornblower" series. However, Ioan Gruffudd loves Capt. Horatio Hornblower so much that he would love to see "Hornblower" become a feature film. Ioan says: "I would love to play Hornblower again. I have a dream of playing him on the big screen. A&E decided that since it's such an expensive venture to make these movies for television, they're not going to make any more at this point. So it's down to me, I think, to try to bring it back to life."

■ ■ ■

Q: We loved the show "Journeyman"—at last, a new concept to enjoy! When will it be back?—Lisa P., via e-mail

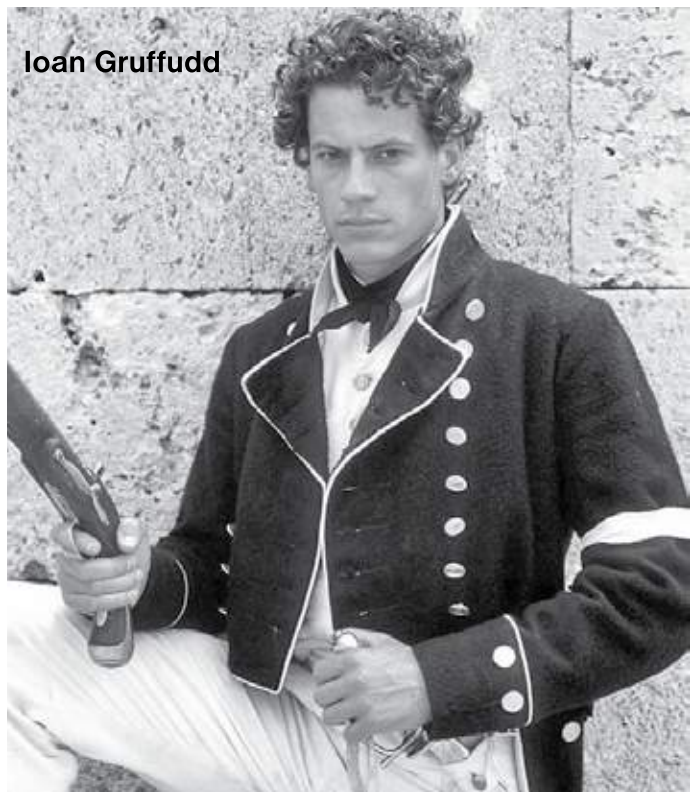
A: Like you, I loved NBC's "Journeyman." However, it has not been picked up for a second season. You can still see the show's star, Kevin McKidd, on the small screen: This season he began working on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" as Dr. Owen Hunt.

■ ■ ■

Q: I remember back in the late '80s, New Kids on the Block were touring with Tiffany as her opening act. Didn't one of the New Kids date her during that time? I can't remember which one. Can you help?—Paula C., Springfield, Ohio

A: I can help you, because I happen to know the answer. However, I also recognize this as a good time to have another contest. I have a copy of "Before the Legend: The Rise of New Kids on the Block" by Tony Rose that I will give to the winner.

If you think you know the answer, send your guesses via e-mail to letters@cindyelavsky.com, or via snail mail to King Features Weekly Service, Cindy Elavsky, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. All entries must be received/postmarked by Monday, Nov. 17, 2008, to be considered. One entry per person. A winner will be randomly drawn from all correct entries. The winner's name, along with the correct answer, will be published in a future column. Good luck!


Ioan Gruffudd

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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The Express
Friday 4:00 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon and Tue 4:00 7:10
Dennis Quaid, Rob Brown
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
The true story of Ernie Davis, two-time All-American running back for Syracuse University who led his team to the national championship in 1960. In 1961, he became the first black man to win the Heisman Trophy. Later that year, he was the first pick in the NFL draft. But Davis never got the chance to play professional football, he was diagnosed with leukemia during the summer of 1962 and died nearly a year later.

Body of Lies
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:20
Mon and Tue 4:30 7:20
Leonardo DiCaprio, Russel Crowe
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R
Synopsis
Roger Ferris is the best man U.S. Intelligence has on the ground, in places where human life is worth no more than the information it can get you. In operations that take him around the globe, Ferris' next breath often depends on the voice at the other end of a secure phone line—CIA veteran Ed Hoffman. Strategizing from a laptop in the suburbs, Hoffman is on the trail of an emerging terrorist leader who has orchestrated a campaign of bombings while eluding the most sophisticated intelligence network in the world.

Quarantine
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:15
Mon and Tue 4:15 7:15
Jennifer Carpenter, Jay Hernandez
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
For a reality TV show about people who work while the rest of the world is asleep, reporter Angela Vidal and her cameraman, Scott, are assigned to cover a night shift with a pair of firemen at a Los Angeles fire station. After an uneventful evening, a 911 distress call in the middle of the night takes them to a small apartment building downtown. Police officers are already on the scene in response to bloodcurdling screams coming from an apartment on the third floor. Having stumbled onto a breaking story, Angela and Scott are determined to get it all on tape.

★ ★ ★

Blindness
Friday 4:25 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon and Tue 4:25 7:30
Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo
Drama, Thriller • Rated R

Beverly Hills Chihuahua
Friday 4:05 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:00
Mon and Tue 4:05 7:00
Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

House Bunny
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon and Tue 4:10 7:25
Ana Faris, Katharine McPhee
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Eagle Eye
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Tue 4:20 7:05
Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

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TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 POP SINGLES

This Week Last Week

1. T.I. No. 1 "Whatever You Like" (Grand Hustle)
2. Pink No. 2 "So What" (LaFace)
3. Kanye West No. 3 "Love Lockdown" (Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam)
4. Rihanna No. 4 "Disturbia" (SRP/Def Jam)
5. M.I.A. No. 6 "Paper Planes" (XL)
6. Katy Perry No. 9 "Hot N Cold" (Capitol)
7. T-Pain feat. Lil Wayne No. 8 "Can't Believe It" (Nappy Boy/Konvict/Jive)
8. Ne-Yo No. 7 "Closer" (Def Jam)
9. Taylor Swift No. 5 "Love Story" (Big Machine)
10. Estelle feat. Kanye West No. 10 "American Boy" (Home School)

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. Metallica No. 1 "Death Magnetic" (Warner Bros.)
2. Demi Lovato new entry "Don't Forget" (Hollywood)
3. Ne-Yo No. 2 "Year of the Gentleman" (Def Jam)
4. The Pussycat Dolls new entry "Doll Domination" (Interscope)
5. Kings of Leon new entry "Only By the Night" (RCA)
6. Jazmine Sullivan new entry "Fearless" (J)
7. Kid Rock No. 4 "Rock N Roll Jesus" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
8. Joe new entry "Joe Thomas, New Man" (563)
9. Young Jeezy No. 6 "The Recession" (CTE/Def Jam)
10. Jonas Brothers No. 11 "A Little Bit Longer" (Hollywood)

Darius Rucker

TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES

1. Darius Rucker No. 1 "Don't Think I Don't Think About It" (Capitol Nashville)
2. Kenny Chesney No. 2 "Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven" (Blue Chair)
3. Toby Keith No. 5 "She Never Cried in Front of Me" (Show Dog Nashville)
4. Kid Rock No. 4 "All Summer Long" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
5. Jimmy Wayne No. 3 "Do You Believe Me Now" (Valory)
6. Carrie Underwood No. 7 "Just a Dream" (19/Arista)
7. George Strait No. 8 "Troubadour" (MCA Nashville)
8. Brad Paisley No. 6 "Waitin' On a Woman" (Arista Nashville)
9. Tim McGraw No. 11 "Let It Go" (Curb)
10. Luke Bryan No. 12 "Country Man" (Capitol Nashville)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. Beverly Hills Chihuahua (PG) animated
2. Eagle Eye (PG-13) Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
3. Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG-13) Michael Cera, Kat Dennings
4. Nights in Rodanthe (PG-13) Richard Gere, Diane Lane
5. Appaloosa (R) Robert Jauregui, Jeremy Irons
6. Lakeview Terrace (PG-13) Samuel L. Jackson, Patrick Wilson
7. Burn After Reading (R) George Clooney, Frances McDormand
8. Fireproof (PG) Erin Bethea, Ken Bevel
9. An American Carol (PG-13) Trace Adkins, Brandon Alter
10. Religulous (R) Bill Maher, Tal Bachman

TOP 10 VIDEO RENTALS

1. Made of Honor (R) Patrick Dempsey (Sony Pictures)
2. Speed Racer (PG) Emile Hirsch (Warner)
3. Baby Mama (PG-13) Amy Poehler (Universal)
4. 88 Minutes (R) Al Pacino (Sony Pictures)
5. The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) Jet Li (Lionsgate)
6. The Love Guru (PG-13) Mike Myers (Paramount)
7. What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) Cameron Diaz (Fox)
8. Street Kings (R) Keanu Reeves (Fox)
9. 21 (PG-13) Jim Sturgess (Sony Pictures)
10. Prom Night (PG-13) Brittany Snow (Sony Pictures)

TOP 10 DVD SALES

1. Made of Honor (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
2. Speed Racer (PG) (Warner)
3. 88 Minutes (R) (Sony Pictures)
4. Baby Mama (PG-13) (Universal)
5. The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) (Lionsgate)
6. The Love Guru (PG-13) (Paramount)
7. Barbie & The Diamond Castle (NR) (Universal)
8. The Office: Season Four (NR) (NBC)
9. The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Beginning (G) (Walt Disney)
10. What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) (20th Century Fox)

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2nd debate watched by 63.2M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The second presidential debate drew more viewers than the first but still proved less of a draw than the Joe Biden-Sarah Palin matchup.

A total of 63.2 million viewers watched Tuesday's debate in Nashville, Tenn., between Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain, Nielsen Media Research said Wednesday. The figure represents the collective audience for 11 networks.

The Obama-McCain debate on Sept. 26 was watched by 52.4 million viewers, while more than 70 million saw Sen. Biden and Gov. Palin's sole meeting on Oct. 2. It's the second most-watched political debate ever, behind the 80.6 million people who watched the 1980 Carter-Reagan debate.

Nielsen tallied viewership for Wednesday's debate on ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC, Telemundo, Univision, BBC-America, CNBC, CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC.

The candidates' third and last debate is scheduled for Oct. 15 at Hofstra University in Hempsted, N.Y.

AP

Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., right, speaks as Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., listens during a townhall-style presidential debate at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008.

Oliver Platt will star in 'Guys and Dolls' revival

NEW YORK (AP)—Broadway has found its Nathan Detroit for the upcoming revival of "Guys and Dolls"—Oliver Platt.

Platt will portray the unapologetic gambler in the classic Frank Loesser musical that will open March 1 at the Nederlander Theatre, producer Howard Panter announced Wednesday. The production will begin preview performances Feb. 3 at the renovated Nederlander, for more than a decade the home of "Rent."

Platt

No word yet on who will play the show's three other lead characters—Sky Masterson, Sarah Brown and Miss Adelaide. The show's last Broadway revival of the musical, in 1992, featured a cast that included Nathan Lane and Faith Prince.

Platt made his Broadway debut in 2006 in Conor McPherson's "Shining City," for which he received a best-actor Tony nomination. He has appeared in such TV series as "Huff" and "The West Wing," and will be seen in the film version of "Frost/Nixon."

Foo Fighters tell McCain to stop using song

NEW YORK (AP)—Yet another band is complaining about John McCain's use of their song to promote his campaign. This time, it's the Foo Fighters.

The rockers sent out a missive telling the Republican presidential candidate to stop using "My Hero." They said they learned it was being use through news reports.

"The saddest thing about this is that `My Hero' was written as a celebration of the common man and his extraordinary potential," the band said in a statement. "To have it appropriated without our knowledge and used in a manner that perverts the original sentiment of the lyric just tarnishes the song."

The band noted it's not the first time McCain has been told to stop using a song. John Mellencamp, Heart and Jackson Browne have also complained—Browne even filed a lawsuit.

Soul legend Sam Moore also has asked the campaign of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama to stop using "Soul Man."

"The McCain-Palin campaign respects copyright. Accordingly, this campaign has obtained and paid for licenses from performing rights organizations, giving us permission to play millions of different songs, including `My Hero,'" said McCain-Palin spokesman Brian Rogers.

Deal for alleged Cusack stalker falls through

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman accused of stalking actor John Cusack will stand trial after a last-minute plea deal fell through late Wednesday afternoon.

Emily Leatherman was moments away from accepting a deal that would have allowed her to avoid state prison. But after she indicated she wasn't entering into the deal freely, a judge rejected the bargain and ordered the 33-year-old woman to stand trial beginning Friday.

Leatherman was facing her first glimpse of freedom since March, when she was arrested outside Cusack's home. She indicated during the hearing that she felt jail was making her sick and that she wanted to leave.

She faces four years in state prison if convicted.

Cusack, star of such films as "Being John Malkovich," "High Fidelity" and "Grace is Gone," is expected to testify during the trial.

Leatherman

On Wednesday, Leatherman appeared in court and was subdued at first, answering a prosecutor's questions simply and politely.

Her demeanor was drastically different from an August court hearing, during which Leatherman berated Judge Susan M. Speer. The judge had just found her competent to stand trial, but not to act as her own attorney.

But during Wednesday's hearing she accused her attorney, Brent Merritt, of using scare tactics to get her to agree to the deal. Merritt, who was appointed against Leatherman's wishes, denied the allegation in court.

Leatherman seemed unsure of the agreement at times, prompting a prosecutor to ask repeatedly her whether she wanted to accept the deal.

Recording company sues Lil' Kim

NEW YORK (AP)—A recording company has sued Lil' Kim for $2.5 million, saying the Grammy-winning rapper hasn't delivered all the recordings their contract requires.

Kim

Brookland Media filed the lawsuit Tuesday in Manhattan's state Supreme Court. Lil' Kim's lawyer, Londell McMillan, says Brookland sued "to leverage their own position" in the contract dispute.

The lawsuit says Brookland contracted with Lil' Kim this year and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on recordings, equipment and advance payments.

Court papers say the rapper later tried to change the contract and refused to continue recording unless Brookland agreed. The papers say she had recorded only a few tracks toward a new album by the beginning of September.

Brookland wants the court to declare the contract valid and bar Lil' Kim from recording for another company.

Voters urged to do homework before they go to the polls

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have been a poll worker for years. I would appreciate it if you would print this important advice to voters:

Before Election Day, voters should check the sample ballot they receive in the mail for their precinct number and the location of their polling place. Polling places can change for a variety of reasons. Often several voting precincts are housed in one location. If a person goes to the wrong location—perhaps because they have voted there before—it can take considerable time and effort to direct the person correctly. Nearly all these problems would be avoided if people read the information on the sample ballot and brought it with them on Election Day.

Also, the voting booth is not the place to review and make decisions about the candidates and issues. This should be done in advance (another reason for the sample ballot). The booth is for one purpose: to mark your ballot. It is inconsiderate to occupy the space for an extended period of time, especially near closing time.

Poll workers have an extremely long day, arriving an hour before polls open, and often working for hours more after the polls close. A prepared voter makes a great contribution to making the election process a positive one for all concerned.

CALIFORNIA POLL WORKER

DEAR POLL WORKER: Thank you for writing. Because the turnout for this year's national election is sure to be one for the record books, your message is a timely one.

Now, allow me to share one of my own: There is usually a shortage of people willing to volunteer as poll workers. For those interested in serving, your county registrar of voters, local election board or its equivalent is the place to sign up. The number is listed in the "Government" section of your local phone book. I was a poll worker years ago, and found the experience was both interesting and fun—and also a great way to meet practically every other single person in the precinct.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Nick," and I have been married five years. Two years ago, his 18-year-old son molested my 7-year-old daughter. It tore our family apart and we are going through a divorce.

Nick is an alcoholic and an enabler. He paid all his son's bills and even sent him money when he was in jail. My problem is, I still love my husband. However, I know that under the circumstances we would always have problems.

How can I make Nick understand that the drinking and taking care of his son after what he did is what really tore us apart? And how do I move forward?

TRYING TO MOVE FORWARD

DEAR TRYING: If you haven't been able to make your husband understand what ended the marriage by now, you may never be able to. Until he dries out, nothing will sink in because he won't be able to retain the information.

You must move forward one step at a time with the full understanding that you are doing so in order to protect your little girl from her predatory former stepbrother. No one said it would be easy, but your child is depending on you. Her welfare must come first.

Believe me, I sympathize with you. But you are doing the right thing.

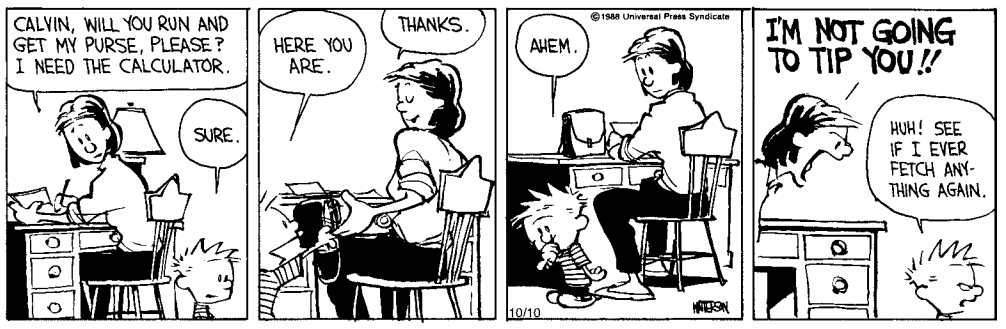
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, WILL YOU RUN AND GET MY PURSE, PLEASE? I NEED THE CALCULATOR.
SURE.
HERE YOU ARE.
THANKS.
©1988 Universal Press Syndicate
AHEM.
10/10
I'M NOT GOING TO TIP YOU!!
HUH! SEE IF I EVER FETCH ANY-THING AGAIN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M BACK FROM MY DINNER DATE!
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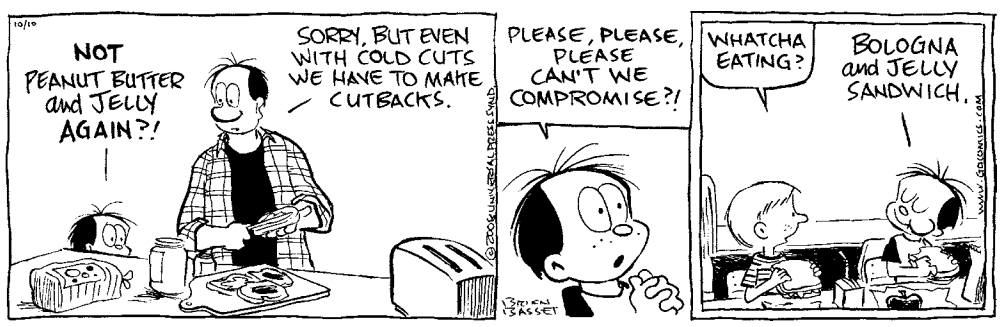
JIM DAVIS 10-10
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
LOOK, ODIE! I BROUGHT YOU A DOGGIE BAG!
AND HERE'S YOUR KITTY BAG
THAT'S ALL?
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

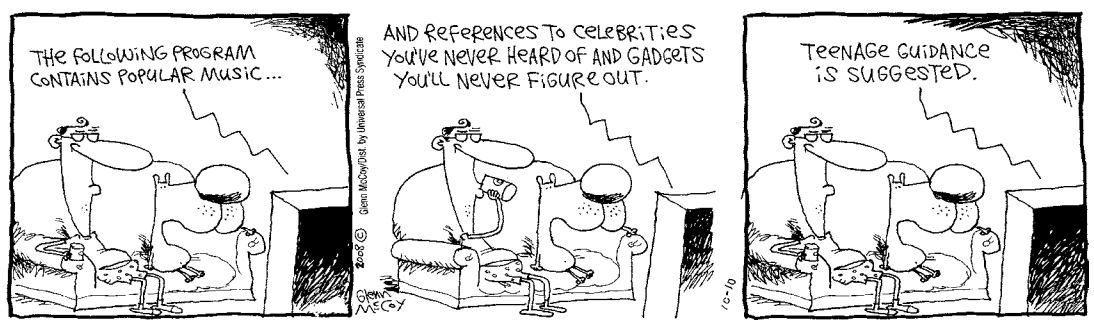
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


10/10
NOT PEANUT BUTTER and JELLY AGAIN?!
SORRY, BUT EVEN WITH COLD CUTS WE HAVE TO MAKE CUTBACKS.
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE CAN'T WE COMPROMISE?!
WHATCHA EATING?
BOLOGNA and JELLY SANDWICH.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM CONTAINS POPULAR MUSIC...
AND REFERENCES TO CELEBRITIES YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF AND GADGETS YOU'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT.
TEENAGE GUIDANCE IS SUGGESTED.
10-10

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Passport endorsements
6 Scepter
9 Hot tub
12 Hibernian
13 Mamie's man
14 Third degree?
15 TV, radio, etc.
16 HOV lane group
18 Unsophisticated
20 Unrivaled
21 Joan of —
23 Luau side dish
24 Uproar
25 Just one of those things?
27 Kingdom
29 9Lives spokescat
31 Passed on the track
35 In accompaniment
37 Sans accompaniment
38 Orange variety
41 "— the ramparts ..."
43 Frequently
44 Hindu princess
45 Northern
47 Low-tech teleprompter?
49 Clintons' cat
52 Columnist Landers
53 Wire measure
54 Alaskan tribe
55 Perched
56 "Ulalume" writer
57 Destitute

DOWN
1 Get-up-and-go
2 Incense
3 Motorcycle attachment
4 Largest of the seven
5 Acute
6 Nicole of "The Simple Life"
7 Suitable
8 Aachen article
9 Animal track
10 Record player, for short
11 Freud associate
17 Fattens
19 Trunk
21 $ dispenser
22 Pi follower
24 Peninsula st.
26 Catastrophic
28 Rags-to-riches writer
30 — -de-France
32 Prop for Minnesota Fats
33 Sprite
34 "E" in Morse code
36 Piece of pasta
38 Killer whales
39 Hot spot in 9-Across
40 Concerning
42 Gum or epoxy
45 Vivacity, musically
46 Highly rated
48 Rock band's accessory
50 Tease
51 Pigs' digs

Solution time: 25 mins.

Z	I	N	C		S	A	W		R	S	V	P
O	R	E	O		P	R	E		E	P	E	E
N	O	A	H		R	M	S		D	R	A	T
E	N	R	O	B	E		T	R	I	A	L	S
			S	E	A			D	A	W		
V	E	S	T		D	I	S	A	L	L	O	W
I	M	P			E	S	P			E	U	R
M	U	R	D	E	R	E	R		A	R	T	Y
		I	R	A			I	N	N			
A	L	T	E	R	S		N	O	S	H	E	D
G	A	Z	A		W	A	G		W	A	K	E
O	V	E	R		A	L	E		E	V	E	N
G	A	R	Y		P	A	R		R	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 10-10

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mya, 29; Jodi Lyn O'Keefe, 30; Brett Favre, 39; Ben Vereen, 62

Happy Birthday: Your motives must be well thought out if you want your plans to bring you positive results. You may have to manipulate situations to get what you need this year. Be open about what you are doing and you will gain respect for your ability to take charge and make things unfold. Your numbers are 4, 9, 14, 22, 31, 38, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Finish things off. Complaints will leave you feeling anxious about your own self-worth. Ignore them and move on to bigger and better things. An opportunity for a job or new project will help you get back on track. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): It will be a long day if you get mixed up in something you really don't care to do. Donations and volunteering will be a mistake. Love may be on the line if communication has been strained or one of you is not being completely honest. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A new position or job is apparent but iron out all the details before you sign up —it may not be what you think. Emotional talks will help you define your place within your circle of friends or family. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Problems at home may not be apparent but, if you stick around, you will find yourself in the middle of a misunderstanding. Get out and go places you enjoy; you will experience something new that will alter your future. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A partnership means just that and must be kept on equal ground. If one or both of you are fighting for supremacy, it will put a dent in your relationship that you may not be able to repair. Be kind and accommodating. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Changes in the dynamics of some of your relationships will prove to be interesting. The chance to talk over ideas that spark your imagination with other creative people will get you moving in a new direction. Opportunity is knocking. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put everything that doesn't have to do with your own personal goals aside. Talks will get you what you want but don't exaggerate or someone you need on your team will begin to doubt your ability to produce. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get out and help others even if someone you are close to complains about being neglected. You can rectify the problem by inviting complainers to join you in volunteering. Bridging the gap is the only way to make loved ones understand. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll desire excitement, so sign up for a day trip or take in an event that will teach you something and help you gauge what to do next. You are ready to make a move but don't do so to get away from something or someone you don't want to deal with. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): It will be easy to make a business mistake today if you let emotions get involved in your decision. Back away from anyone asking for too much or trying to convince you of something. You should be doing the convincing and controlling. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll have some excellent ideas that can turn into something quite lucrative. Don't let love stand in your way. A change of plans, friendships and vocational direction will help you clear your head. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make the changes needed to help your relationships run smoothly. Don't give away too much information, especially if it will hinder getting someone to forgive you for something. Generosity must be sincere. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, sophisticated and savvy. You are expressive and talkative and you chase excitement and adventure.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7				6		
	8		5		9		1	
8	7			6			3	4
5			1		4			9
4	9			3			6	1
	2		7		1		9	
		6				2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	1	9	6	5	7	4	3
4	5	7	1	8	3	2	9	6
6	3	9	4	2	7	1	8	5
5	7	3	6	1	4	8	2	9
1	4	8	2	5	9	6	3	7
9	6	2	3	7	8	5	1	4
8	1	4	7	3	6	9	5	2
7	9	5	8	4	2	3	6	1
3	2	6	5	9	1	4	7	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA **Solution: 4 letters**

C	J	P	W	F	B	S	M	U	I	R	A	U	Q	A
O	L	A	A	S	R	E	T	I	R	W	S	N	R	F
M	R	I	A	R	H	F	A	U	L	T	O	C	E	I
M	R	N	M	C	K	I	A	U	U	I	H	S	T	S
U	D	T	A	A	(E)	L	N	D	T	I	T	N	A	H
N	A	E	R	N	(T)	A	I	A	T	I	E	A	W	E
I	B	R	I	Y	(I)	E	L	E	V	E	F	T	R	R
T	U	S	N	O	(S)	S	C	A	T	A	I	U	S	Y
Y	C	G	E	N	N	T	L	A	S	S	L	R	L	R
A	S	A	A	A	U	S	C	A	A	F	D	E	O	E
F	U	E	R	R	L	U	I	C	O	R	L	S	O	N
L	C	T	E	T	D	L	I	M	C	A	I	T	H	N
O	K	N	H	E	I	E	E	L	A	H	W	S	C	A
G	I	S	H	O	P	S	N	N	S	W	O	H	S	C
D	L	A	C	I	R	O	T	S	I	H	Z	Z	A	J

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Allen, Aquariums, Architecture, Ariss, Artist, Author, Beach, Beautiful, Cannery, Canyon, Climate, Coast, Community, Dine, Educate, Fair, Fault, Festivals, Fishery, Gardens, Golf, Historical, Jazz, Marine, Mild, Military, Nature, Naval, Ocean, Painters, Park, Rest, Sail, Sand, Schools, Scuba, Sealife, Shops, Shows, Site, Studies, Translation, Warm, Water, Whale, Wharfs, Wildlife, Writers

Yesterday's Answer: Agents

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 pah for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Sorry, no online orders for this special offer.

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WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

BRAZIL
ALMOND
HAZEL
PISTACHIO
CASHEW

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Find today's solution in this section

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: 2008-CDA-08-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Friday, October 31, 2008 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FY2009 & 2010 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY & THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION"

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/s/OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting, CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

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Reporter/Marketing Assistant

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"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS
JVA# 08-008

OPENING DATE: **October 3, 2005**

POSITIONS: **Clerk I and Clerk III**

For application forms and detailed position descriptions, please visit the front office of the NMI Retirement Fund at Capitol Hill, Saipan, or e-mail your request for a "Position Description" to sablanci@nmiretirement.com. To be considered, you must complete your application and provide a police clearance on or before closing of vacancy announcement. Deadline for submission of applications is 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 20, 2008.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(JVA# 08-005 REANNOUNCED)

OPENING DATE: **October 3, 2008**
CLOSING DATE: **October 20, 2008**

POSITION: **Executive Secretary (Board)**
LOCATION: **Saipan**

NATURE OF WORK: Primary responsibility is to provide office support services to ensure timely and efficient conduct of business by the Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission (Board). The use of independent judgment, initiative and discretion is essential as the employee is entrusted with confidential records and files. The incumbent shall utilize standard office equipment plus a computer and transcribing machine and work under the supervision of the Board and Administrator.

COMPENSATION: The starting compensation range for this position is set at Pay Level 29/01, or $21,506.41 per annum, plus other benefits as mandated by law.

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan. All application packages must be received at the Fund office no later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, October 20, 2008**; applications will be accepted by e-mail and/or postal mail. **Late or incomplete application packages will not be accepted**. Packages must be marked "**JVA# 08-005 Confidential.**" Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, educational credentials and police clearance** addressed to the following:

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Matsuzaka to open for Red Sox against Rays

AP

Boston Red Sox's Daisuke Matsuzaka smiles during practice at Fenway Park in Boston Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008 in preparation for Game 1 of the American League championship series against the Tampa Bay Rays.

BOSTON (AP)—Daisuke Matsuzaka will be on the mound for the Red Sox when the AL championship series begins Friday night against the Tampa Bay Rays.

That doesn't make him Boston's ace.

Josh Beckett is still No. 1 in the Red Sox rotation—especially during the playoffs—even though he had the worst outing of the three Boston starters who faced the Los Angeles Angels in the first round. Beckett, coming off a strained side muscle, is scheduled to pitch Game 2 in the best-of-seven series against the Rays.

"Before Beckett's last start, he was the best postseason pitcher maybe in the history of the game," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said Wednesday after announcing his rotation. "He had the audacity to be a little rusty after two weeks. We don't need to run away from Beckett, we need to get him on a run."

Francona chose Matsuzaka to start against the Rays in Game 1 not because of Beckett's injury, and certainly not because the team lost any faith in a guy who won five straight postseason outings before Boston's Game 3 loss to the Angels. Even with his off night versus L.A., Beckett is 6-2 with a 2.09 ERA in his postseason career.

Instead, Francona said, the Red Sox scheduled Beckett for the second game because it would give him, Matsuzaka and Game 3 starter Jon Lester essentially the same amount of rest. Tim Wakefield will start Game 4, with Matsuzaka, Beckett and Lester ready to pitch again in Games 5-7 if necessary.

"Nobody's going to throw three," Francona said. "So having those three twice is really what's important, regardless of how it's lined up."

Matsuzaka was 18-3 with a 2.90 ERA this season, best among the Boston starters in both categories. But he also led the rotation with 94 walks, raising his pitch count and limiting him to 167 2-3 innings.

"We're going to have to wait him out and see how he's throwing," Rays rookie Evan Longoria said. "It's a little bit different when you're playing in a playoff game. Walks are so important, and if he's going to come out and do what he normally does, he usually walks a ton of guys and throws a lot of pitches early. If we can get him on the ropes early, we've really got to take advantage of that."

In the NL, Philadelphia and the Los Angeles Dodgers begin their series Thursday night, with Cole Hamels facing Derek Lowe in Game 1. The Phillies haven't made it to the World Series since losing to Toronto in 1993, and the Dodgers haven't been there since their victory over Oakland in 1988.

The Red Sox have gone twice since 2004, sweeping the Series both times. But the Rays had never finished above .500 before this year, posting the worst record in the majors in '07.

All season long, the Rays were described as "surprising," and some thought they would falter down the stretch. But with the AL East lead on the line in September, they rallied against Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon at Fenway Park one night and then took the series finale the next in 14 innings to turn back the Red Sox charge.

The Rays again took two of three from Boston a week later at home to cement their hold on the division lead, going on to win by two games and leave the Red Sox as the wild card. Tampa Bay then dispatched the Chicago White Sox 3-1 in the best-of-five first round.

And they no longer qualify as surprising.

"It shouldn't be a surprise 162 games and a playoff series that they're good," Francona said. "I understand some of the story behind this. They haven't had any success going into this year and all of a sudden they went from the bottom to the top. It's a great story for baseball. It made our life a little bit more miserable this year.

"They have a real good thing going. Our job will be to derail that."

Phillies need more production from Utley *and* Howard

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—For all their big hits and long homers during the regular season, Chase Utley and Ryan Howard have to provide the Philadelphia Phillies with more offense in October.

The slumping stars were a combined 4-for-26 in the first round of the playoffs against Milwaukee, but strong pitching and timely hitting from other Phillies carried the team into the NL championship series against Los Angeles. Utley and Howard also had troubles in their postseason debuts last year, and Philadelphia was swept out of the first round by Colorado.

If the Phillies are going to beat the Dodgers and advance to the World Series for the first time since 1993, they'll need their 3-4 hitters to break out of their funks. Game 1 of the NLCS is Thursday night at Citizens Bank Park.

"I'm trying to find holes, trying to put together good at-bats, trying to get on for the next guy," Utley said. "It's as simple as that. See the ball, hit the ball."

Utley hit .292 with a career-best 33 homers and 104 RBIs this season, doing most of his damage before the All-Star break. But he was just 2-for-15 with four strikeouts against the Brewers. One of the hits was a two-run double that center fielder Mike Cameron should have caught in Game 1.

The three-time All-Star second baseman is batting .154 (4-for-26) with nine strikeouts, one extra-base hit and two RBIs in his postseason career.

Howard led the majors with 48 homers and 146 RBIs this year, despite a career-low .251 average. He helped the Phillies win their second consecutive NL East title with an outstanding final month, hitting .352 with 11 homers and 32 RBIs in September.

A leading candidate to win his second MVP award in three years, Howard reverted to his early season struggles in the playoffs. He was 2-for-11 with five strikeouts against the Brewers. The 2006 NL MVP is batting .217 (5-for-23) with 12 strikeouts, two extra-base hits and two RBIs in two postseason series.

Combined, Utley and Howard are hitting .184 (9-for-49) with 21 Ks, four extra-base hits and four RBIs in the playoffs. Those are the kind of numbers that earn star players bad reputations in big games. Just ask Alex Rodriguez.

Howard gave credit to the Brewers' pitching staff for limiting his production. They also took the bat out of his hands with five walks, including three intentional passes. Pat Burrell made them pay after the last one, swatting a three-run homer in the series clincher.

"You expect the other team to step it up in the playoffs," Howard said. "You're not going to hit home runs every day. We know that. We just have to figure out how to put up some runs some way, somehow."

Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said the key for Howard is more patience and better pitch selection.

"He's got to be very patient and not chase pitches out of the zone," Manuel said. "He's got to get balls to hit and stay in the middle of the field or hit the ball to left field. Then when he does that, that's what brings him right back around."

Howard and Utley are left-handed hitters, so they'll be glad to see the Dodgers' righty-laden rotation this series. They were 0-for-7 with six strikeouts in Game 2 against Milwaukee. Lefty CC Sabathia started that game, lasting 3 2-3 innings in the 5-2 loss.

"CC was tough," Utley said. "The Dodgers have a lot of right-handed pitching, which will be nice."

Wizards' Haywood needs wrist surgery; Jamison's knee OK

WASHINGTON (AP)—Wizards center Brendan Haywood will have surgery for a torn ligament in his right wrist, but it was not clear Wednesday how much of the regular season he will miss.

Some teammates, including guard Antonio Daniels, who suffers from the same injury in his non-shooting hand, said specialists told him that the recovery could be months.

"It's a huge blow. A huge blow," Daniels said of Haywood's loss. "He's coming off a career year, and he anchored our defense really well last year. Very vocal. So, you miss that."

Haywood, hurt during training camp, visited two hand specialists in New York on Wednesday. His operation has not been scheduled, and the team said it wouldn't have a timetable for his return until after the surgery.

Coach Eddie Jordan said the team will know a more definite recovery time after surgery.

"We anticipate it to be pretty soon," Jordan said after the Wizards' win at Memphis on Wednesday night. "Within a week. Who knows?"

Washington did get some good medical news Wednesday about another starter, though: All-Star forward Antawn Jamison has a bruised right knee and is expected to be ready for the start of the regular season. An MRI exam showed no other damage.

He was hurt during the first quarter of Washington's preseason opener at the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night.

Haywood averaged career highs of 10.6 points, 7.2 rebounds and 1.7 blocked shots last season.

"Brendan worked extremely hard over the summer after having a career year last season," Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said. "This is disappointing, but we're confident that he will do everything necessary to recover from this injury and continue that progress."

Daniels said he was able to endure his wrist injury because it wasn't his dominant hand. If it had been, he may have opted for surgery. Instead, he rested it over the summer and continues to play "lightly-braced, but heavily restricted."

"They say it is the most unpredictable hand surgery you can have," Daniels said. "They cast you up for four to six months, and you do all the rehab, do all the physical therapy, but there's no guarantee you can come back healthy. You may be worse than what you were. You may be the same."

Jordan said other players will have to step in to fill the void left by Haywood's injury. There was a bit of promise in the win against the Grizzlies as rookie JaVale McGee scored 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds in 27 minutes.

"It's going to be hard to replace (Haywood's production)," Wizards guard DeShawn Stevenson said. "You do have Etan (Thomas) playing well, and the rookie (McGee) played well, so he'll have to step up."

Thomas missed all of last season after having open-heart surgery.

Jordan said adapting to injuries is something the Wizards have dealt with in recent seasons.

"We're used to this sort of adversity," he said. "We've had injuries over the last four or five years, and we've responded. We've had guys step up.

"Our front office has done a great job of balancing our roster with solid veterans mixed with some young guys with talent. We've been able to take the hit and still make the playoffs the last four years."

Man indicted in slaying of Broncos' Williams

DENVER (AP)—A 25-year-old man was indicted Wednesday on first-degree murder charges in the drive-by shooting death of Denver Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams on New Year's Day 2007.

Willie D. Clark faces 39 counts, including murder, attempted murder, assault, crimes of violence and a weapons violation, Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey said.

Clark is in federal custody in a separate case. He was long considered a "person of interest" in Williams' slaying but is the first suspect to be indicted.

Williams a former Oklahoma State standout, was shot and killed while riding in a rented limousine early on Jan. 1, 2007, after leaving the Safari Club, a Denver nightclub. He was 24.

The indictment said Williams and Clark were at the club with separate groups of friends and there was an altercation between the two groups. Quoting witnesses, it said Clark got into an SUV, followed the rented limo carrying Williams and opened fire.

At least 15 shots were fired into the limo. Williams was shot in the neck, and two other passengers, Nicole Reindl and Brandon Flowers, were wounded, the indictment said.

Kansas City Chiefs spokesman Bob Moore said the Brandon Flowers injured in the attack is not the Chiefs' rookie cornerback of the same name.

Also in the limousine was then-Broncos wide receiver Javon Walker, who held the dying Williams in his arms. Walker, now with the Oakland Raiders, wasn't injured.

Clark does not yet have an attorney for the Williams indictment, said Denver district attorney's spokeswoman Lynn Kimbrough. A call after hours to his attorney on a separate federal case, Alaurice Tafoya-Modi, was not immediately returned.

Williams' mother, Rosalind Williams, of Fort Worth, Texas, couldn't immediately be reached by telephone Wednesday.

According to the indictment, taunts were exchanged between the groups inside the nightclub, and both groups went outside when the club closed. Witnesses testified that a "large" man from Williams' group then grabbed Clark "about the head."

Clark asked friends for "a heater," or gun, according to the indictment. Williams and his companions took off in the limo and Clark, driving the SUV, caught up and fired, a witness said. Two weapons—a .45-caliber handgun and a .40-caliber gun—were used, according to the indictment.

Clark was arrested on a parole violation four days after Williams was killed. He was charged with drug violations last year in an indictment that also named Brian Hicks, the registered owner of the SUV police say was used in the shooting.

Investigators have said Clark was part of Hicks' alleged drug operation. Hicks was in jail at the time of Williams' shooting.

Morrissey emphasized at a news conference that the police investigation into the slaying was continuing. He described the lead-up to Williams' slaying as "something that wasn't even a good fist fight, but because weapons were involved it turned into a shooting. ... It's senseless."

Police expressed frustration at the "no snitch culture" they encountered during the investigation. A break in the case occurred Aug. 21 when Detective Michael Martinez authenticated a letter written by Clark allegedly admitting to the slaying. The letter was obtained by the Rocky Mountain News, according to the indictment.

Nick Ferguson, a safety who played for the Broncos with Williams, said he hoped authorities have the right person.

"I trust the people investigating the case did their homework and they won't drag people into court on charges that won't stick," said Ferguson, now with the Houston Texans. "I've seen that happen too many times.

"I'm like a lot of people who knew Darrent. I just want the people responsible to pay their debt to society for taking such a young, vibrant man from his kids and his family. Not a moment goes by that I don't think about D-Will and his family after what happened that night."

Williams' death hung over the Broncos throughout the 2007 season, as did the death of backup running back Damien Nash, who collapsed after a charity basketball game in St. Louis in March 2007.

AP

Denver Police Chief Gerry Whitman speaks at a news conference at the Denver Police Administration building on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008. Willie Clark, 25, was indicted Wednesday on first-degree murder charges in the drive-by shooting death of Denver Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams on New Year's Day 2007.

Harrison sued by man saying he was shot by player

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Marvin Harrison is being sued by a man who says he was shot in the hand and body in April by the Indianapolis Colts star.

Harrison, who was never arrested or charged, is being sued by Dwight Dixon for $100,000 in damages in a suit filed in Philadelphia on Sept. 2. Police are investigating the shooting, the District Attorney's office said Wednesday.

Dixon says he sustained "serious and permanent injuries" to his arm and body and a "severe shock" to his nervous system on April 28.

His lawsuit contends he was shot by Harrison and he was shot by someone using Harrison's gun. That approach covers both what Dixon says happened—that Harrison pulled the trigger—and Harrison's defense that someone else fired the player's gun.

Dixon's lawyer, Robert Gamburg, told The Associated Press that Harrison has admitted that his gun was used in the shooting, making the player liable because he was negligent in storing the weapon.

"If you own a gun, you're duty-bound to know where it is and if someone has taken your gun, which is basically what he is claiming, then he still is responsible for it, civilly," Gamburg said.

Calls to Harrison's attorney, Daniel Hart, and his agent, Tom Condon, were not immediately returned. In April, Condon denied the player was involved in the shooting.

Colts coach Tony Dungy said Wednesday the team has received no new information about the case for a few months.

In late April, Dixon and Harrison had a confrontation, Gamburg said.

"It apparently built up over time," the lawyer said. "I don't know if it actually came to blows, but certainly there were words exchanged."

Police said the shooting occurred near a North Philadelphia car wash owned by the All-Pro receiver that is about a half mile from a bar he also owns.

Harrison, who is from Philadelphia, has played all of his 12 seasons with the Colts and is the franchise's record-holder in every major receiving category. He is one of only four players in league history to top 1,000 receptions.

NFL BRIEFS

Police: Pacman Jones involved in fight at hotel

DALLAS (AP)—Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones was involved in a fight with one of his bodyguards, according to Dallas police, the night before attending a previously scheduled team meeting with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. No one was arrested and no one will be charged in connection with the fight late Tuesday night at The Joule, an upscale downtown hotel. Jones missed all of last season for Tennessee while serving an NFL suspension for off-field incidents. Goodell fully reinstated the cornerback, acquired by Dallas in a trade in April, just before the season opener. "Someone from the business called police," Dallas police spokesman Cpl. Jerry Monreal told The Associated Press. "Police arrived and spoke to the parties after they had a verbal argument. Both parties agreed to leave, and they left." The incident report lists no names, and Monreal said he did not know if Jones was involved in the fight, which was first reported by Dallas-Fort Worth TV station KTVT.

Report: Brady had surgery a month after injury

BOSTON (AP)—New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady underwent surgery on his left knee this week, a month after he was sidelined with the season-ending injury, *The Boston Globe* said. The paper reported Wednesday that the operation was performed Monday in Los Angeles. Brady's replacement, Matt Cassel, said he tried calling him. "I haven't gotten a return phone call yet," he said. "I'm sure he's just resting." Patriots spokesman Stacey James declined comment. Coach Bill Belichick refused comment during his regular news conference Wednesday at San Jose State, where the team is practicing for Sunday's game at the San Diego Chargers. "We're not going to comment on anybody's situation," he said. "We're not going to get into a daily update." Belichick sidestepped two other questions about Brady. Asked if he had talked to the quarterback, the coach said, "I'm just worried about the San Diego Chargers right now. That's what we're focused on."

McNabb calls meeting to stop Eagles' 2-game skid

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Donovan McNabb decided it was time to speak up. After a pair of disheartening losses dropped the Eagles to 2-3 and the bottom of the competitive NFC East, the veteran quarterback called a team meeting earlier this week. "I tried to let them know that it's easy for us to sit and say we could be undefeated right now or we should be 4-1, whatever it may be, but we're not," McNabb said. "So, in order for us to correct that and put these four or five games behind us, we have to do it right now." Against Washington last week, the Eagles jumped to a 14-0 lead but were dominated on both sides of the ball the rest of the game. In the fourth quarter they had to settle for a field goal after driving to the Washington 2-yard line and eventually lost, 23-17. Against the Bears the previous week, the Eagles snapped out of a second-half offensive lull long enough to drive inside the Bears' 5-yard line in the closing minutes. But Philadelphia failed to score the go-ahead touchdown on three runs from the 1 in a 24-20 defeat.

Kings hold off Realtors; Giants score

MANILA, Philippines—Winning the season opener over the tournament's defending champion meant little more than a morale booster for Barangay Ginebra.

"We're not looking [beyond the win]," Ginebra coach Jong Uichico said Wednesday night, moments after the decimated Gin Kings completed a come-from-behind 89-86 victory over defending KFC Philippine Cup champion Sta. Lucia Realty at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.

"It's important to win the first game because it gives your confidence and morale a boost," added the multi-titled mentor, whose team won the Fiesta Cup at the expense of Air21 two months ago.

Jay-Jay Helterbrand knocked in 21 of his 26 markers in the final two quarters, and Paul Artadi was adjudged the Player of the Game after scattering a career-high 18 points to go with three assists and two steals as both guards led the Kings, who were without a lot of key players.

Ginebra played without big men Rafi Reavis and Billy Mamaril and top-tier guards Junthy Valenzuela and Mark Caguioa, who are all out because of various injuries.

The Realtors opened up with a 10-0 lead but couldn't keep up with the Kings in the stretch.

Ryan Reyes had 17 points and Kelly Williams highlighted a 16-point night with four electrifying dunks for the Realtors.

In the first game, with James Yap hobbled by an old injury, Purefoods turned to Kerby Raymundo in the fourth quarter last night to scuttle a stubborn Red Bull crew, 77-73.

"The only thing predictable about Red Bull is its unpredictability; Red Bull is always tough to beat," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. "They may have lost a lot of players, but as long as (Red Bull) coach Yeng (Guiao) is there, Red Bull will always contend."

The Tender Juicy Giants trailed by as many as 15 points in the first half then played brilliantly when it mattered most as Raymundo outscored the entire Barako squad in the payoff frame.

"I think we also took it easy in the first half and almost paid the price for it," said Gregorio. "The positive (thing) about this win is that James (Yap) had an off-night and we still found a way to win."

The 6-foot-6 Raymundo scored 11 of his game-high 23 points in the fourth period to make up for the inability of the Giants' other go-to-guy, Yap, to deliver at the crunch.

Raymundo also finished with 15 rebounds and three blocks to lead the Giants, who also got 18 points from Peter June Simon off the bench. Simon also helped rally Purefoods by shooting 13 in the third.

Bothered by a recurring right ankle sprain, Yap finished with just eight points on 2-of-17 shooting from the field. He missed all his seven attempts from the three-point area as the Giants trailed most of the way and looked ready to fall.

Red Bull, with national coach Yeng Guiao calling the shots, led 43-28 at the break, and was ahead 67-60 with 9:35 left in the fourth quarter before two long scoreless spells doomed the unpredictable Barako.

Purefoods first blanked Red Bull for nearly four minutes to creep within 64-67, before holding the Barako hitless again in a five-minute span for a 75-69 lead heading into the final 1:34.

First Game

Purefoods 77 – Raymundo 23, Simon 18, Villanueva 15, Yap R. 9, Yap J. 8, Bugia 2, Robinson 2, Belga 0, Alonzo 0, Lanete 0, Aban 0, Salvador 0.

Red Bull 73 – Espinas 18, Baguio 10, Duncil 9, Najorda 9, Cruz 7, Rodriguez 6, Chan 5, Hubalde 5, Alvarez 4, Ybañez 0, Hrabak 0.

Quarters: 18-28, 28-43, 58-63, 77-73.

Second Game

Barangay Ginebra 89 – Helterbrand 26, Artadi 18, Salvacion 14, Cabatu 8, Pacana 6, Holper 6, Menk 4, Tubid 3, Wilson 2, Crisano 2, Aquino 0, Escalona 0.

Sta. Lucia 86 – Reyes 17, Williams 16, Espino 16, Omolon 8, Coronel 6, Gonzales 6, Mendoza 5, Miranda 4, Yeo 3, Aquino 3, Daa 2, Gregorio 0.

Quarters: 21-25, 35-45, 65-66, 89-86. ***(PDI)***

Bad boy Se fined, sacked again

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine Basketball Association Tuesday fined three Air21 players, including star forward Arwind Santos, a total of P46,000 on top of suspensions for varying unsportsmanlike offenses during the Express' stunning season-opening loss to new-look Rain or Shine last Sunday.

And in the case of one of the players, a previous infraction forced him to dig deeper into his pockets.

Express center Homer Se was meted a P20,000 penalty and a one-game suspension for swinging an elbow on the face of Mark Andaya during the second quarter of the Elastopainters' 120-102 rout of Air21 in a game which saw Santos and teammate Wynne Arboleda also get ejected.

Automatic suspension

Se, who has earned a reputation as a player who has no qualms of getting too physical, was called for a Flagrant Foul category 2 on the play, meriting him an automatic suspension under PBA rules.

The league also made sure Se would not forget a previous offense by ordering the 6-foot-5 power forward to pay an additional P12,000 fine for his Flagrant Foul 1 on Barangay Ginebra's Alex Crisano during the Express' 97-84 Game 7 loss in the Fiesta Cup Finals last August.

It marked the 11th time that Se was fined for his behavior on court, apart from a couple of two-game suspensions he was earlier slapped with.

The latest set of penalties increased Se's career total fines to P127,000.

Penalty for two technicals

Arboleda dodged suspension but was also made to pay a P6,000 penalty for his two technical fouls, the second drawing the ire of Rain or Shine's top rookie Gabe Norwood.

The stocky Arboleda made what looked like a clothesline tackle on Norwood that led to the Air21 guard's second technical foul.

"It will be tough playing without our key players," said Air 21 coach Bo Perasol, who will miss Se and Santos in the game against Talk N' Text on Thursday at the new Ynares Sports Center in Pasig City. ***(PDI)***

AFC

From Page 36

coordination/ball feeling/dribbling, passing 1 and 2, ball control, shooting, defending play, attacking play, and basic goalkeeping.

Coaches from various schools on Saipan attended the first day of the clinic. The list includes Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Lindsay Davis, Thin Thin Concon, and Tawny Barcinas, San Antonio's Cenon Ayuman II, Cha Cha Junior High School's Melody Matson, Hopwood's Timothy Williams, Frankie Angel, Joseph Ferrari, and Natalie Hill, Kagman's Francisco Arurang and Ma. Hellena Jebeh, Southern's Ben Wood and Glenn Smith, and San Vicente's Temary Gramlich.

Other coaches who joined the clinic were Gregory Borja, Kati Peters, Amanda Allen, Steven McKagan, Jan Ravell, Maryana Nora Gramlick, John Lee, A.J. Taitano, Charles McEntee, and Patricia Coleman.

Caslib said the course aimed to teach local coaches the proper and effective way of coaching, particularly mentoring for youth teams.

He said through the course, coaches will learn their roles on key areas of the game, such as technique, tactical, physical, psychological, and the social aspect of the sport.

"Coaches must have the knowledge of the mechanics of the game, individual technique and skill development, and specific and detailed coaching and demonstrating," said Caslib, an AFC A Licence coach.

The Filipino coach who has been coaching teams in various tournaments in Asia added without a knowledgeable coach, players' development will be hampered.

"If the coach doesn't even know the basic of the sport, such as dribbling, passing, and goal defending, and he just decides to coach to be with a team, players efforts in every game will be wasted," Caslib added.

The member of the Technical Development Committee of the Philippine Football Federation said he is happy to learn more parents and teachers on island are involved in coaching, as this will create more potential licensed coaches for the CNMI.

"All they need is proper training and knowledge through various courses to get the kids working in right direction," said Caslib, who was in Qingdao, China last year to conduct an AFC B license course.

NMIFA technical director and CNMI head coach Nick Swaim welcomed Caslib's presence on the island saying this will give local coaches an opportunity to get AFC certification without having to go off-island.

"Also local coaches can share what they will learn to friends or fellow teachers who are interested to coach and in the end we will have more coaches willing to teach our kids the proper way of playing football," Swain said.

COACH

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territory's players to a shootout and exploding for 30 markers.

Despite Cruz making his highest output in the tournament, the Commonwealth bowed to New Caledonia, 92-131.

With their 1-2 record in Pool B, the CNMI Junior Nationals were pitted against Pool A No. 2 finisher Tahiti in the quarterfinals.

Against Tahiti, Cruz was still unstoppable, hitting 23 markers to become the top scorer for the CNMI for the third straight game. Unfortunately, the CNMI cagers lost to the much taller Tahitians, 74-97.

The Junior Nationals faced Palau next and although Jayvan Tarkong topscored for the Commonwealth with 33 points and helped the team win, 100-90, Cruz still reached his average, adding 23 points.

The CNMI dueled Fiji in the battle for fifth place and lost the close match, 63-65. Cruz nailed 23 points in the CNMI's losing cause.

Aside from his consistent offense, the Marianas High School cager also averaged close to seven rebounds and five assists per game.

But Cruz's all-around performance failed to get the panel's nod, as his name was not called during the awards ceremony for the tournament last Saturday at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

FIBA Oceania has yet to post on its website the names of the members of the All-Star Team which will be competing in a tournament in Australia next year.

Only 10 players from the eight squads that played in the youth tournament were selected for the elite team.

Meanwhile, Aguon believed the CNMI Junior Nationals achieved what they wanted to accomplish in Guam.

"Overall the trip and our performance was a success. We were proud to represent the CNMI and we want to thank the community and our sponsors who made our trip possible," said Aguon, who thanked PTI, Jet Holdings, Palms Resort Saipan, and DFS Saipan.

FORMER

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pong competition in his homeland and abroad, Abe shifted to Large Ball where he is the sport's 10-time singles champion.

Joining Abe in his four-day trip to the CNMI are delegation head Kimiko Koike, Kimiko Konishi, Masayuki Murai, Yasuko Murai, Junko Kahamura, Akita Kyoko, Mitsuko Yamaguchi, Terumi Morino, Takashi Sawada, and Sumio Yamamoto.

Koike, who is making her second trip to the CNMI after a gap of 27 years, said outside of ace players Abe and Yamamoto, the rest of the group are average ping-pong players.

Yamamoto, she said, used to be a top-ranked table tennis player in high school and in fact finished fourth in a Japan-wide competition years back.

She said she is expecting good competition in today's Large Ball Tournament, adding that she has heard that Saipan, Tinian, and Guam players are quite skilled in the sport.

Saipan-based Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association actually is the host of the Large Ball Tournament—as well as the 10th Annual Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament that immediately follows it—but decided to hold the competition at Tinian Dynasty to better accommodate the event, according to its president Steve Lim.

Expected to suit up for the Tinian Dynasty ping-pong team are mainstays Mark Ma, Charlie Cheng, and brothers Robin and Luke Lu.

MATTA, meanwhile, will counter with veteran paddlers Budhi Gurung, Jean Shi, and Su Yong Dong.

Lim said Guam will be represented by noted table tennis instructor Hisamitsu Hamamoto. The MATTA president said Hamamoto was supposed to be accompanied by two more Guam players, but they begged off at the last minute.

While Tinian and Saipan players will stay to duke it out in the 10th Annual Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament on Saturday and Sunday, Abe and his group will return to Saipan on Oct. 11 and after a brief sightseeing tour Sunday morning, will fly back to Japan on Oct. 12.

WHISPERING

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"The players got their acts together in the latter part of the first set and continued to play as a team in the second set to pull off the win," Hom said.

"Our players have been showing significant improvements as far as their skills in playing volleyball are concerned. They are really fun to watch, as they look up to each other and give their best in every game. More than winning, they are enjoying playing together and thrusting their teammates and that's what we love seeing in this co-ed volleyball," Weindl said.

The Whispering Palms principal added that the significant improvement and teamwork the Terns are showing in their past games will boost their chances to regain the championship this year.

Whispering Palms won the 2006-2007 season of the middle school division, but was dethroned by Seventh Day Adventists last year.

The Terns are composed of Christian Miller, Ilia Corella, Joon and Jay Ko, Jake Lee, Cody Race, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Minori Yoshida, Kristina Folta, Raina Klaver, and Phalai Frink.

Whispering Palms has four more games left before wrapping up the regular season. Playoffs will start later this month. The Terns will be facing Saipan International School Blue and Green teams next week and Calvary and Saipan Community School the following week.

"It will all be home-away games so we must be more prepared and continue to work as a team to win our last matches," Weindl said.

GCA also has four games left and would be eyeing a sweep to claim this season's pennant.

Eagles coach Mark Robles said the breaks did not go their way in the end, but he is confident his wards will recover in their next game.

The GCA junior varsity volleyball team is composed of A.J. Batallones, Daniel Camacho, Genesis Manglona, Kelvin Sablan, Ken Orejola, Kim Alvarado, Kristine Molina, Luke Camacho, Michelle Faller, Michi Tenorio, Min Sung Kim, Noel Miguel, Patrick Reyes, Tim Dela Rosa, Kallie Anne O'Conner, and Joseph Sablan.

Sixers beat Suns to extend winning streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The San Antonio Sixers notched their seventh win in a row in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after thwarting the Suns, 65-58, Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was not an easy win for the Sixers, as they were threatened by the Suns several times and the former never led by double digits throughout the game.

Crucial baskets from Ernest Duenas and Joe Ada helped the Sixers foil the Suns' bid for an upset.

Duenas finished with 17 points, making four in the closing minutes of the match, while Ada chipped in seven, three of the Sixers' last six points.

Duenas had only six points in the first half and the Sixers had a hard time getting full control of the game, leading by only seven at halftime, 33-26.

Josh Kiyoshi kept the Sixers within striking distance in the first half, drilling all his 11 points in that period. Kiyoshi drew help from Mariano Lisua in keeping the Suns afloat, adding six in the first 20 minutes of the game.

Ada, who was scoreless in the first half, started the second half with a triple and went on to team up with Duenas in leading the Sixers to a hard-earned victory.

While Ada found his rhythm in the second half, the Suns' Kiyoshi went cold forcing Bryan Lisua to take the cudgels for their team. Bryan tallied 10 markers in the second half.

The Suns dropped to a 2-5 record, but are assured of a seat in the playoffs.

The Sixers are also in the playoffs, but still need to win their last game in the regular season to gain the pennant.

The Sixers will play the CNMI Junior Nationals on Oct. 15. The CNMI Junior Nationals are also unbeaten in five games and have a strong chance of taking the pennant away from the Sixers.

The CNMI Junior Nationals are this year's defending champions beating the Southern Sonics in last year's finals.

The Sixers won third place last season outlasting the Rollers I.

Five more games are left before the Rotary caging starts its playoff round, which will have a single-elimination format.

The remaining games will decide the playoff pairings. The No. 1 team will duel the No. 8 squad, No. 2 vs. No. 7, No. 3 vs. No. 6, and No. 4 vs. No.5.

The winners in the first round of the playoffs will advance to the semifinals.

Sixers 65 – E. Duenas 17, Pepito 8, Ada 7, M. Duenas 7, Salas 5, Benavente 4, Park 4, Feria 4, Ano 4, R. Duenas 3, C. Duenas 2.

Suns 58 – Kiyoshi 11, R. Lisua 10, Brel 8, Yamada 6, M. Lisua 6, Maratita 6, Salas 5, Babauta 4, Calvo 2.

Scoring by halves: 33-26, 65-58.

Referees: Gilbert Espinosa and Eric Artillaga.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sixers' Ernest Duenas, right, goes for a shot against a Kontenders player during their game in the Rotary caging last month. The Sixers won and are on a seven-game winning streak after beating the Suns Wednesday night.

Islander stuns PTI, Home Boys win

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Islander Rent A Car capitalized on its home court advantage as it issued a 3-1 win against formerly undefeated PTI Voyagers in their Budweiser Open 8-Ball League encounter Tuesday night at Round Two Bar and Grill.

Islander won the match by the slimmest of margins in total points earned, 116-115.

The Voyagers easily won the first round 45-29 but PTI prevailed in the next two frames, 43-39 and 44-31.

It was sweet revenge for Islander following PTI's 3-1 triumph in the two teams' first encounter this season last Sept. 3 at the Jonny's, the Voyagers' home.

But despite the loss, the Voyagers remained in the lead with a 23-5 win-loss record.

Islander Rent A Car, anchored by Boyet Sequioco, Erik Caisip, Joey Cruz, Jomer Enrique, and Rey Pinangay, meanwhile, slid from second to third place with a 21-11 record.

This is due to the 4-0 victory that was scored by SaipanCell Hustlers over USSP Wat-Ever.

The Hustlers are now 22-10, while Wat-Ever remained in fourth with a 9-19 win-loss mark.

In the other game, Godfather's Rock Steady and Coral Reef Shark Attack split their match, 2-2, to stay in the bottom with 9-19 and 4-24 records, respectively.

In the Obyan division, Primo's Home Boys further tightened their grip of the lead with a 22-10 card after hammering out a 4-0 win over the visiting Coral Reef Barracuda.

Inspired by the presence of their team manager Bill Mott, the Home Boys' Nolan Cultura, Frans de Luna, Mario Diola, Jorge Lizardo, and Junacho Mendoza compiled rounds of 46, 42, and 46 for a total of 134.

Barracuda, composed of Leo Sablan, Nizer Masayos, Steve Limes, John Peter, and Oscar Sablan managed 27, 34, and 34 for a total of 95.

Krystal Perfect Spotters, for its part, came away with a 2-2 decision against USSP Fotten Palau and are now tied with D'Pirates Huwa with 17-15 records.

D'Pirates lost to VFW Warriors, 1-3, with the latter improving its mark to 12-20 in a tie with Barracuda.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Primo's Home Boys pose with their team manager Bill Mott while hosting Coral Reef Barracuda last Tuesday night in the Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Players of Coral Reef Barracuda smile for the camera during a break in the action in their Budweiser Open 8-Ball League match.

Car, Asiana ticket, $15K up for grabs in OBP golf

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The first player to make a hole-in-one in the upcoming fundraising golf tournament organized by the Off the Beaten Path will win fabulous prizes compliments of sponsors.

OBP said the prizes include a vehicle from Joeten Motors, a roundtrip ticket to Southeast Asia or China from Asiana Airlines, and a cash prize of $15,000 from Shell Marianas.

Proceeds of the tournament will benefit the efforts of Laolao Bay Golf Resort to help the CHC Volunteers Association raise funds for needed medical equipment for the hospital.

Francine Sablan, OBP public relations officer, said the CHC volunteers' group is an integral component of the CNMI's health care system and has contributed to the ability of the CHC to offer quality medical care.

"Our goal is to assist the CHC Volunteers Association with raising funds to purchase a Spiral CT scan machine and a hyperbaric chamber for the Commonwealth Health Center," Sablan said.

Aside from the hole-in-one prize, cash and certificate prizes will be offered for first place ($300), second place ($200), and third place ($100) in each division.

There will be six divisions—Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors Flight, and Ladies Flight.

The double Peoria system will be applied for the Seniors and Ladies flights.

The Off the Beaten Path golf fundraiser will be held on Oct. 18 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

OBP will host a banquet immediately after the completion of play at the clubhouse where prizes will be awarded to the winners. There will also be a raffle with tickets sold for $1.

Ticket buyers are eligible to win great door prizes such as an entry to the 2009 Tournament of Champions valued at $200, cellular phones from PTI, room nights at Pacific Islands Club, Aquarius Hotel Beach Tower, and Hyatt Regency Saipan, among others.

Other opportunities to win include closest to the pin, prize pool, and cash.

Registration begins at 6am and shotgun will be at 7am.

Other sponsors include Tan Holdings Corp., DFS Saipan Ltd., PTI, Saipan Shipping Company, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc., MITA Travel, Western Union, Wushin Corporation, Ambyth Shipping, Take Care Insurance, Horizon's Lines, I-Connect, Matson Navigation, Pacsport/Seabridge, Seafix Inc., Triple B Forwarders, Kyowa, Bridge Capital LLC, Coca Cola Beverage Co., Dial Rent-to-Own, Mar Pacific Distibutors, Pacific Islands Club, Palms Resort Saipan, Café at the Park, Luen Fong, Revolving Restaurant 360 Inc., Saipan Stevedore Company Inc., Saipan Sunset Cruise Inc., Triple J Motors, Troung's Restaurant, Constuction Material & Supplies, Micronesian Brokers, Unity Trade, Sherman Williams/Safety First, Paradise Island Chiropractic, Century Hotel, D&Q Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Pacific Trading Company, Saipan Grand Hotel, Hertz Rent-A-Car, Younis Art Studio/Marianas Variety, Gold's Gym, Cars Unlimited, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Hollywood Theaters, Price Costco, KCNM, and Micronesian Brokers.

Tickets are $100 and can be purchased at the CHC Gift Shop and any CHC Volunteer Association or Off the Beaten Path members.

For more information, please contact Alex Sablan at saiship@pticom.com or email obpcnmi@gmail.com.

Fall League out, Thanksgiving tourney in

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Major League is scrapping the SML Fall competition and instead will be hosting a Thanksgiving Baseball Tournament next month.

SML coordinator Tony Rogolifoi said that due to the few number of teams that showed interests in joining the fall league, they decided to replace it with their first-ever Thanksgiving tournament.

"A first of its kind, the SML will host a Thanksgiving Baseball Tournament sometime in November. The tournament will host eligible players age 25-and-under," Rogolifoi said.

Rogolifoi added that cash prizes and other in-kind prizes await top teams and outstanding players.

SML is encouraging players in the Junior, Senior, and Big leagues to form teams and participate in next month's tournament.

"This tournament will serve as a tune-up for youth players participating in the upcoming Little League program," Rogolifoi said.

The Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. had started its organizational meeting this week and might open its 2008 season earlier as scheduled due to the increasing number of teams interested in competing in the SLLB.

SLLB usually opens its season in February, but might start in January as five more squads are likely to join the Major league. Last year, 15 teams joined the Majors.

Teams interested in participating in the Thanksgiving tourney are asked to attend a meeting today at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium at 12pm.

Rosters, fees, uniforms, opening date, and other details of the tournament will be discussed at the meeting.

Meanwhile, Rogolifoi is also asking teams interested in competing in the 2008 Masters Baseball League to attend an organizational meeting on Oct. 15 at 5pm at the pavilion behind the gym.

The Masters League is set to open later this month with four teams so far have expressed their interests in joining the league. The list include the Tigers, D-9ers, Korean Dreams, and Team Rubak.

For more information, contact Rogolifoi at 288-3515.

Sixers extend winning streak

The San Antonio Sixers notched their seventh win in a row in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after thwarting the Suns, 65-58, Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Matsuzaka to open for Red Sox against Rays

Daisuke Matsuzaka will be on the mound for the Red Sox when the AL championship series begins Friday night against the Tampa Bay Rays.

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AFC instructor holds coaching course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is leaving no stones unturned as far as ensuring that coaches are equipped with sufficient knowledge and training about the sport is concerned.

Three weeks after having former Chelsea goalkeeper John Whittle on Saipan to share his expertise on grassroots and youth football development, NMIFA has brought an Asia Football Confederation instructor on the island to conduct an introductory course.

Jose Ariston Padre Caslib, who coached various age group national teams in the Philippines, started the eight-day course yesterday at the NMIFA Office located at the third floor of the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

The coaching course will conclude on Oct. 16 and will cover theoretical and practical sessions.

The theoretical sessions will discuss planning a coaching session, coaching method and learning process through video skills training, age group training 1 and 2, nutrition and hydration, laws of the game, and course review.

The practical part will have coaches learning about warming up and cooling down exercises,

See AFC on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Asian Football Confederation instructor Jose Ariston Padre Caslib discusses the role of coaches during the introductory coaching course he is conducting at the NMIFA Office at the TSL Plaza in Garapan yesterday. The course will run until next week.

Coach: Jericho All-Star snub puzzling

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After Jericho Cruz's impressive showing in the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament, CNMI Junior Nationals coach Rufino Aguon is puzzled his main gunner did not make it to the FIBA Oceania All-Star Team.

"Unfortunately he did not make it and I am still wondering why. We were not given or informed on the criteria of making the All-Star. I will be bringing this up on our next BANMI meeting so that we can inquire as to why," Aguon said.

"I believe he should be on the team since he was our consistent scorer and the scoring champ in the pool play," Aguon added.

Cruz played all three games in Pool B and tallied a total of 69 points for an average of 23 points per match. He had a slow start in the CNMI's debut against Guam, drilling only 10 points. The CNMI lost against Guam, 102-61.

But Cruz showed what stuff he is made of against Papua New Guinea, firing 29 points and leading the CNMI to an impressive 93-84 victory.

Cruz picked up where he left off in the CNMI's game against New Caledonia, engaging the French

See COACH on Page 34

EDUARDO C. SIGUENZA

CNMI Junior Nationals hotshot Jericho Cruz in action against Tahiti in the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament last week at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

Whispering Palms hands GCA first loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Whispering Palms snapped Grace Christian Academy's winning run in the junior high division of the 2008 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League after posting a straight set win yesterday at the Terns' nest on Navy Hill.

Whispering Palms recovered from a 0-8 deficit in the first set to nail a come-from-behind 25-17 victory. The second set was even harder, as the Terns needed an extra point to pull off a 26-24 triumph.

The victory improved Whispering Palms' record to 8-2. The Terns lost to the Eagles in the first round and their other defeat came at the hands of Calvary Christian Academy last week.

"Our students were off to a lousy start that's why they trailed by eight. But when they got their rhythm, everything fell into the right places. They've been hitting the ball and played impressively on the net," said Whispering Palms principal Tom Weindl.

Mark McDonald coached Whispering Palms in the opening part of the first set, but had to leave when his team was trailing to attend a meeting at Marianas High School.

Brian Hom, a parent of one of Whispering Palms players, took over and watched the Terns ground the Eagles.

See WHISPERING on Page 34

Former ping-pong champ arrives for Large Ball

MARK RABAGO

Hiroyuki Abe, standings sixth from left, poses with teammates as well as Saipan and Guam ping-pong players before boarding a flight to Tinian yesterday at the domestic airport.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Asian Games gold medalist and World Championship bronze medal winner Hiroyuki Abe, along with 10 other Japanese ping-pong players, arrived in the CNMI yesterday to take part in today's Large Ball Ping-Pong Tournament on Tinian.

Abe and his teammates touched down at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport past 3pm but did not stay long in the Commonwealth's capital, as the group immediately took a flight to Tinian for the one-day table tennis tournament at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

The 53-year-old former Japanese table tennis national player teamed up with Seiji Ono to take home the gold in the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi. He also placed third in the World Championships a year later, again partnering with Ono.

After dominating regular ping-

See FORMER on Page 34